

COMMISSION DECISION
of
on the financing of humanitarian operations from the general budget of the European Communities in South America (DIPECHO¹)

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 aid², and in particular Article 15(2) thereof:

Whereas:

- (1) South America is exposed to a wide range of natural disasters such as floods, droughts, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, cold waves, storms;
- (2) Local communities are very vulnerable to all these disasters, and the losses caused by disasters are significant both in social and economic terms;
- (3) The capacity of several South American countries to cope with disasters is insufficient and support from the international community is often needed to respond and to promote preparedness activities, including small-scale mitigation and prevention activities of a demonstrative nature;
- (4) Past experiences from the previous DIPECHO Action Plans implemented in the Andean region and an assessment of the humanitarian situation lead to the conclusion that disaster preparedness projects should be financed by the Community for a period of 18 months;
- (5) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 6,500,000 from budget line 23 02 03 of the 2007 general budget of the European Communities is necessary to provide disaster preparedness activities for 1,000,000 vulnerable people of South America, taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions and other factors;
- (6) The present decision constitutes a financing decision in the sense of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002³, Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002⁴ and Article 15 of the Internal Rules of the Implementation of the general budget of the European Communities⁵.
- (7) In accordance with Article 17 (3) of Regulation (EC) No.1257/96, the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave a favourable opinion on 12 June 2007.

¹ Disaster Preparedness ECHO, the European Commission's disaster preparedness programme in the framework of humanitarian aid, implemented by the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid - ECHO

² OJ L 163 2.7 1996, p 1.6

³ OJ L248, 16.9.2002, p.1

⁴ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1. as last amended by Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1995/2006, OJ L 390, 30.12.2006, p.1

⁵ Commission Decision of 21.2.2007, C/2007/513

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 6,500,000 for humanitarian aid operations undertaken in the framework of the Fifth DIPECHO Action Plan for South America by using line 23 02 03 of the 2007 general budget of the European Communities.

2. In accordance with Article 2 (f) of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective:

To support strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for and mitigate natural disasters by enhancing their capacity to cope, thereby increasing resilience and decreasing vulnerability.

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 18 months, starting on 01 September 2007.

2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 01 September 2007.

3. If the operations envisaged in this Decision are suspended owing to *force majeure* or comparable circumstances, the period of suspension shall not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the implementation of this Decision.

Article 3

1. The Commission shall implement the budget by direct centralised management.

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 into 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. This means that in case of co-financing, the possible rate of co-financing can go up to 99% if needed.

Article 4

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission



Humanitarian Aid Decision

23 02 03

Title: Fifth DIPECHO Action Plan for South America focusing on the Andean Community (and Venezuela⁶)

Location of operation: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela and possible neighbouring South American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay)

Amount of Decision: EUR 6,500,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/DIP/BUD/2007/03000

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population.

1.1. - Rationale:

According to Article 2(f) of the Humanitarian Aid Regulation⁷, the Community's humanitarian mandate includes "to ensure preparedness for risks of natural disasters or comparable exceptional circumstances and use a suitable early-warning and intervention system". DIPECHO (which stands for **DI**saster **P**reparedness **ECHO**) is a programme set up by DG ECHO⁸ in 1996 to improve the capacity of communities at risk to better prepare and protect themselves vis-à-vis natural disasters.

Initially the DIPECHO programme focused on three regions: Central America, South East Asia and the Caribbean. In 1999, following a diagnostic study identifying risks, the socio-economic vulnerability of the populations, and the country's local, national and regional response capacity, the Andean Community was added to the programme. This First action plan was externally assessed in 2001 and recommendations included notably:

1. To focus on disaster preparedness at the local level, coordinated and integrated with national and regional programmes;

⁶ Since April 2006, Venezuela is no longer a member of the Andean Community. However, since Venezuela has been included in the previous Actions Plans, it continues to be a focus country .

⁷ EC Regulation N°1257/96 of 20 June 1996, OJ L 163 of 02.07.1996

⁸ Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid - ECHO

2. To systematize lessons learned and best practices
3. To participate in national disaster networks, and coordinate more with other international agencies
4. To target and empower the most vulnerable communities, using participatory methodologies and materials that could be replicated by other projects.

The subsequent DIPECHO strategy took account of the assessment findings, as well as of the experience gained during the initial funding of proposals, in dealing with local partners, and through the increased collaboration between DG ECHO and other Commission services.

In 2006, DG ECHO launched an external study in the MERCOSUR⁹ region (and Chile) in order to evaluate the risks, vulnerabilities and response capacity of those countries and to decide whether to enlarge the forthcoming Fifth Action Plan to include them. The evaluation revealed that the region studied was far much vulnerable and exposed to natural disasters than initially foreseen with varying levels of coping capacities. On the basis of these conclusions, DG ECHO decided to enlarge the Andean Community Action Plan to neighbouring countries, while adopting a gradual and prudent approach to this extension. The main focus of the programme will remain on the Andean Community region¹⁰ while envisaging cross border projects or regional initiatives with other South American countries, in order to tackle common threats and hazards more efficiently.

Latin America is the second most vulnerable region in the world in terms of natural disasters, after Asia¹¹. Due to its geography, geology and climate South America is exposed to a wide range of disasters such as hydro-meteorological and related disasters (including floods, landslides, mudflows, avalanches); geological disasters (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tidal waves); droughts and related disasters (including extreme temperatures and wildfires); windstorms (e.g. hurricanes, cyclones, tropical storms). Over the past six years, hydro-meteorological disasters have proved to be the most recurrent in the region.

The most dramatic manifestation in the region is the *El Niño* event¹², attributable to warming in the eastern and central Pacific. The 1997-98 *El Niño* did not generate a lot of casualties but caused significant economic losses in the Andean region amounting to USD 7,500,000¹³.

Floods are very frequent in South American countries, not only due to the *El Niño* phenomenon, but also commonly generated by tropical storms and climatic anomalies. On the basis of the data published in the 2005 UNDP world report, the annual average number of people exposed to floods, considering the registered data from 1980-2000, is estimated at more than 48 million in South America¹⁴. The most recent event occurred at the beginning of 2007, where more than one million people were affected by floods, mainly in Brazil, Bolivia and Peru.

The Andean region is particularly vulnerable to earthquakes; the last significant one (in terms of physical damage and loss of human lives) occurred in Peru in June 2001. The annual average number of people exposed to earthquakes is estimated at 4.5 million in Chile, 2.6 million in Colombia, 1.8 million in Peru, 1.5 million in Ecuador and 0.5 million in

⁹ Namely Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay.

¹⁰ The Andean region is the most affected area in South America, with Colombia, Ecuador and Peru representing 68.5% of the total events of the past 30 years out of eight Latin American countries (DesInventar Database by La Red Latinoamericana de Estudios Sociales en Prevención de Desastres)

¹¹ Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED)

¹² As opposed to Central America and Caribbean, the impact of La Niña is quite low in the Andean region.

¹³ Some experts estimate that there is a high probability that there will be a strong *El Niño* event (comparable to *El Niño* 1982-83) during the 2009-2015 period

¹⁴ 2004 world report :Reducing Disaster Risk/Disaster Risk Index *a challenge for development*

Argentina¹⁵. Earthquakes and storms hitting the mountainous areas with vulnerable human settlements tend to result in destructive landslides.

Many volcanoes are still active: the most recent eruptions took place in Ecuador, with two consecutive eruptions of the Tungurahua volcano in July and August 2006. Since March 2007, the Tungurahua and the Reventador volcanoes have been presenting levels of activity which are causing concern. In April 2006, the Ubinas volcano eruption in Peru led to an evacuation process. In Colombia, concerns linked to the Galeras volcano persist; the last evacuation warning was in November 2006. The same month, the population of Antofagasta (Chile) was in constant alert due to the activities of the Lascar volcano.

Increasingly, cold waves affect certain areas of the region in a recurrent manner, particularly the Peruvian and Bolivian Highlands. Extremely low temperatures hit the Andean highlands notably in Bolivia and Peru in 2002 and in 2004 in Peru, causing a deterioration of livelihoods for 600,000 people. In January and February 2007, Peru was confronted with extreme temperatures and hailstorms, with the Civil Defence estimating that more than 500,000 were affected.

Drought, a slow-onset disaster, also affects in a recurrent manner the “El Chaco region” (Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Argentina), and Brazil in general where more than 10 million people are annually exposed to drought¹⁶. The number of droughts has risen recently, affecting 1.2 million people in Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru during the 2000-2007 period and entailing heavy crop and livestock losses.

South America also experiences frequent small-scale disasters¹⁷ affecting relatively few communities, where donors are unlikely to intervene due to the limited scale of the event, but which have a considerable negative impact on the livelihoods of those affected. According to CRED¹⁸, 83% of the population affected by disasters in South America during the 2000-2007 period were affected by small-scale events. It is important to note that small-scale disasters (i.e. those which occasionally appear in official statistics and that rarely trigger a declaration of emergency) are responsible for most of the economic damage caused by natural events in this part of the world. Their recurrent appearance imposes a significant burden on the already difficult humanitarian situation of the affected vulnerable populations. In Colombia, Peru and Ecuador alone the annual number of disasters is approximately 1,258¹⁹.

Scientific predictions and evidence indicate that global climate change may further increase the number of extreme events, creating more frequent and intensified natural hazards such as floods, droughts and windstorms²⁰.

Additional threats such as environmental degradation, improper land planning, inadequate agricultural practices, and uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources will continue to make thousands of people more vulnerable to natural hazards. In the last three decades, the rapid rise of the urban population from 30% to 75% has further increased the number of disaster-prone areas due to a lack of urban plans and strong demographic pressure – and will certainly further reinforce the current vulnerability.

¹⁵ considering the registered data from 1980-2000

¹⁶ 2004 world report :Reducing Disaster Risk/Disaster Risk Index *a challenge for development*

¹⁷ For the purpose of this analysis, a disaster is considered of small-scale when it affects less than 50,000 people, according to CRED Database.

¹⁸ Less than 50 000 people requiring immediate assistance during a emergency

¹⁹ La Red data from 1988 to 1998

²⁰ According to CRED and ICHARM (International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management under the auspices of UNESCO), over the last 10 years, the number of hydro meteorological events has dramatically increased.

The damage caused by natural disasters in the region is expected to increase from an annual average of 1.5% of GDP over the last 30 years to 5% for the period 2000-2014.²¹

Vulnerability indicators at national level in many countries of South America may be considered medium level²². However, social disparities within South American countries are among the highest in the world²³, even within relatively well-off countries where certain regions suffer from very high levels of vulnerability²⁴. Social inequalities are particularly pronounced in Brazil²⁵ and Chile²⁶.

According to United Nations (UN) data²⁷, some 50% of the Latin American population is poor, with Bolivia being one of the countries registering the highest level of poverty, i.e. over 56%. The situation is worse in rural areas, where for instance 80% of Bolivians and Peruvians live below the poverty line. Children are particularly affected, with 70% of Ecuadorian and Peruvian children facing poverty.

Given the socio-economic conditions and vulnerabilities described above, the losses and destruction generated by natural disasters entail significant negative consequences for the populations concerned.

1.2. - Identified needs:

Despite existing knowledge of natural disasters and the political commitment of Andean countries, Disaster Preparedness (DP) is not yet a full strategic priority for many of the national authorities²⁸. A vision or a proper implementation of disaster risk reduction measures appears to be largely absent in most of the South American countries, even if some substantial efforts in various countries to cope with natural disasters have started recently. The incentives to apply proactive risk reduction policies are in general rather weak, due to a series of reasons such as information problems that cloud the prospect for consensus on what to do; the lack of public visibility in disaster risk reduction (DRR) as opposed to response to emergencies; institutional constraints; and the presence of significant post-disaster relief and reconstruction funds from external sources that may act as a disincentive to invest in DRR.

Consequently the ability of these countries to cope with disasters is weak, particularly at local level where many communities and local institutions lack awareness, knowledge, expertise, resources and mandate. For instance, especially for the immediate response following an emergency and events occurring in remote areas, Andean countries rely on international

²¹ Centre for Economic and Environmental Studies

²² 2005 UNDP's Human Development report HDI : Argentina, Chile and Uruguay rank relatively high with ranks 34, 37 and 46 respectively while Brasil, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador Paraguay and Bolivia rank worst with an intermediate HDI (63,69, 75, 79, 82, 88 and 113 respectively)

²³ Income Inequality coefficient (GINI) in the world in the 1990s shows that Latin America ranks first in terms of inequality with 0.51

²⁴ In the Risk indicators project report of the BID – UNC/IDEA, Argentina came out with a Local Disaster Index less favorable than Ecuador, Colombia and Peru.

²⁵ 31% of the total population (i.e. 54 million people) live below the poverty line in Brazil

²⁶ Report on Human Development 2005, UNDP : GINI coefficient equal to 0.57 in Chile and 0.59 in Brazil

²⁷ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

²⁸ Colombia is probably the country of the region causing the most concern in DRR. In the national workshop held in April 2007, Professor O.D.Cardona's presentation about the Colombian situation put clearly in evidence the significant efforts that are still needed and emphasized that Disaster Management has not improved in recent years.

assistance to respond to natural disasters, rather than promote themselves preparedness and prevention activities.

In such a scenario, the lack of resilience of populations, institutions, basic services (commonly ruptured during natural disasters) and other infrastructure results in vulnerabilities and losses (both in lives and assets lost) that in many instances could be mitigated or avoided.

The lack of investment in prevention and mitigation measures to cope with natural disasters reinforces the need to intervene in disaster preparedness.

After four Action Plans covering the Andean Region and in order to take stock of the lessons learned from previous projects, an extensive consultation process²⁹ was undertaken from February to April 2007, involving over 440 DRR experts representing 260 different institutions (national, regional, local authorities, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), UN agencies, Red Cross family, regional organisations, academia etc.) to prepare the ground for the Fifth DIPECHO Action Plan. The communities and municipalities which benefited from previous DIPECHO action plans are better off in terms of Disaster Preparedness. As stated above, there is still room³⁰ for the Fifth DIPECHO Action Plan to target areas previously uncovered by former DIPECHO programmes, where DP capacities are non-existent.

In the same vein, the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Management (CAPRADE) was consulted during the process and its recommendations were taken into account in the identification of needs³¹. The conclusions of the consultative process include *inter alia* support to the implementation of the priorities of the Andean Strategy for Disaster Prevention and Management³², which is in the first stage of implementation.

This Action Plan will also aim to use every opportunity to link the DIPECHO community-based approach with the larger development programmes, with a view to integrating DRR in sustainable development strategies and programming. Complementarities with other stakeholders, whether other services of the European Commission or EU Member states or any other agencies present in the region, will be sought, as DIPECHO is not to be considered as a stand-alone programme but as part of the overall efforts of the European Commission to implement the objectives of the Hyogo Framework for Action³³.

This framework provided the strategic logic underlying the Fifth DIPECHO Action Plan for South America, as suggested in DG ECHO's 2007 strategy. This DIPECHO Action Plan is coherent with the five action priorities of the Hyogo Framework, ensuring that disaster risk reduction is a priority, enhancing early warning, building a culture of safety, reducing risk factors and strengthening Disaster Preparedness.

Based on the results of these national and regional workshops³⁴, DG ECHO was able to draw up a comprehensive regional and per country strategy with precise identification of needs

²⁹ National workshops have taken place in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela

³⁰ The coverage of the fourth DIPECHO Action Plan do not exceed 5% of the total needs.

³¹ The first coordination meeting between cooperation agencies and CAPRADE was held in Cochabamba – Bolivia, on 26 October 2006

³² Decision 591 of the 13th Ordinary Meeting of the Andean Council of Foreign Ministers of 10 July 2004

³³ 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters

³⁴ The conclusions and recommendations of this process were published in the "Instructions and Guidelines for DG ECHO potential partners wishing to submit proposals under the Fifth DIPECHO Action Plan in South America" http://ec.europa.eu/echo/whatsnew/calls_en.htm

according to areas and activities. The following priorities and needs have been identified and will be followed when selecting disaster preparedness projects under the Fifth Action Plan:

- The need to improve the coping capacity of highly exposed populations based on a good identification of vulnerability and risk is a priority for interventions,
- Disaster prone surrounding urban areas to be considered,
- Institutional strengthening to complement efforts made to improve coping capacity at community level,
- Strengthening coordination instruments to be contemplated.
- Contribute to facilitating the implementation of national and regional strategy in terms of disaster preparedness and disaster management at local level.
- Need for systematization, compilation and dissemination of experiences with a view to promoting replication,
- Necessity to look for synergies to establish a link with development initiatives at local level.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

The Fifth DIPECHO Action Plan will focus on the most vulnerable local communities in neglected disaster prone areas and institutions involved in disaster risk reduction, including bodies such as the Civil Defence. It is estimated that around 1,000,000 direct beneficiaries will be targeted under this Action Plan.

The following regions, considered among those with the highest risk levels and the lowest coping capacities, will be targeted on a priority basis for operations aimed at increasing response capacity at local level (the main hazard faced is indicated in brackets). Apart from these areas, interventions in urban surroundings highly exposed to disasters may also be considered. New areas and populations will be targeted under this Action Plan, although in some cases consolidation of previous actions may be considered.

Bolivia: Departments of Beni and Pando and part of Santa Cruz and La Paz (floods); Inter-Andean Valleys (earthquakes, floods, droughts); South Central (floods, droughts); Altiplano (hailstorms, snow storms, floods, drought).

Colombia: Influence zones of Galeras, Nevado del Huila and Machín volcanoes (volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and landslides); Coastal areas of Valle, Cauca and Nariño Departments (earthquakes and tsunami); Alto y bajo Magdalena region; Urban suburbs of Bogotá and surroundings (earthquakes, landslides and floods).

Ecuador: Esmeraldas, Manabí, Los Ríos and Guayas (Cuenca del Río Daule) Provinces (landslides and earthquakes); Cotopaxi, Tungurahua, Chimborazo, Bolívar Provinces and surroundings of Reventador and Cayambe volcanoes (landslides, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions); Loja, Zamora and the highest zones of El Oro Province (landslides and earthquakes).

Peru: Jungle zone (Ceja de Selva); eastern part of the Andean cordillera, between 1800m and the Amazonian plain (llano amazónico) (landslides, mudslides and floods); South East (Sur Oriente); Cusco, Puno, Ayacucho, Huancavelica, Apurímac and high zones of Arequipa and Moquegua (floods, mudslides, snow storms, hailstorms and volcanic eruptions); Piura and Lambayeque (Floods, el Niño); Ancash region, specifically in “Callejón de Conchucos” area (mudslides/Huaycos), landslides, floods).

Venezuela: Trujillo, Merida and Tachira States (landslides, earthquakes, floods); Miranda, Vargas and Federal District States (earthquakes, landslides).

Regional: Projects at the Andean Community or South America level (common threat or hazard, dissemination of good practices); community based trans-border initiatives between Andean and other South American countries (cross border river basin issues such as Pilcomayo river in Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay, shared hazards along the borders (floods along the Ecuador-Peru border, drought in the Peru-Bolivia-Brazil region, or in the Gran Chaco of Bolivia-Paraguay-Argentina).

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints:

Most of the activities proposed are community-based, i.e. their successful implementation depends on the willingness of the identified communities to co-operate. In addition, disaster preparedness projects depend on the link implementing partners establish with the relevant authorities, who need to be involved in the project from its beginning so as to ensure that the objectives can be met and that the results are sustainable.

In order to build a project on a strong foundation, it is desirable that partners interested in submitting project proposals have previous experience in disaster preparedness and that they have already established relations with the envisaged beneficiary communities and authorities on the ground. The main risk in this type of operation is linked to the high turnover of local authorities and of trained people in the communities.

The political situation in many South American countries remains fragile. The situation has recently been particularly dramatic in Bolivia and in Ecuador, which were almost on the brink of civil war in June 2005. Peru and Venezuela also remain unstable. While the situation in Argentina seems to have stabilised, instability remains a risk in Paraguay and Brazil (the latter not least because pronounced inequalities between rich and poor risk fuelling social conflict). Political instability results in negative consequences for the overall humanitarian situation, especially for the already vulnerable strata of society. The security situation in Colombia remains very difficult because of the internal conflict.

Major natural disasters could also hamper access to beneficiary communities and, hence, delay project implementation.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. - Objectives:

Principal objective: To reduce the impact of future disasters by preparing vulnerable populations in the areas most affected by recurrent natural hazards.

Specific objective:

To support strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for and mitigate natural disasters by enhancing their capacity to cope, thereby increasing resilience and decreasing vulnerability.

2.2. - Components:

Programme strategies which receive DIPECHO support will be developed in the context of existing relevant legislation and decrees and will contribute to existing/planned National Disaster Management Plans and Policies (including the implementation plan of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015) and also in conjunction with the appropriate institutions of national governments at all relevant levels (local, sub-national, national); sectoral line ministries, finance or planning ministries, the National Disaster Management Office of each country, or others.

Regional initiatives will support the main priorities of the Andean strategy for disaster management and prevention. Following CAPRADE recommendations and in line with the third (Identification, Evaluation and Monitoring of risks, Early Warning Systems and specific contingency plans) and fifth pillars (Mutual assistance in case of Disasters) of the Andean Strategy, the following priorities were identified:

- Co-ordination is a key issue at regional level: Applicants should ensure and respect a particularly close coordination with CAPRADE, as with national authorities/EC delegations in the Andean countries and the PREDECAN EC project³⁵, to facilitate the implementation and coordination of project initiatives.
- Strengthening hazard regional monitoring to support local Early Warning Systems and to facilitate access and use of this complementary information at local level.
- To a minor extent, activities which focus on dissemination and public awareness representing an added value at regional level may be taken into account (including the promotion of platforms to exchange experiences, production of new tools, etc).
- Strengthening of disaster risk and coping capacity indicators may be considered.

Successful proposals will include the following components (non-exhaustive):

- **Local capacity building /training**

Capacity building/training on disaster preparedness conducted at local level, with the direct involvement of beneficiary communities (e.g. support in the equipment, organisation and training of local emergency committees, simulations conducted at community level, workshops conducted at community level aimed at producing an emergency plan, training of community facilitators, training and equipment of emergency community brigades...)

- **Infrastructure support**

Reinforcement of infrastructure to support disaster preparedness plans (e.g. construction of storage facilities, rehabilitation of evacuation routes, temporary shelters for evacuated populations, sign-posting of evacuation routes...)

- **Small-scale mitigation works**

Small-scale infrastructure works aimed at reducing the physical vulnerability of the beneficiaries. Occasionally, beneficiaries are trained during the implementation of these mitigation works in order to replicate them in the future (e.g. protection walls along river banks, drainage works, reforestation, structural works on existing public buildings to increase their resistance to disasters...)

- **Early warning systems (EWS)**

All activities and equipment related to the setting up of an EWS (e.g. technical studies conducted specifically to set up an EWS such as hydrological studies, installation of radios

³⁵ Strengthening disaster preparedness and prevention in the Community of the Andean Nations
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and training beneficiaries in their use, installation of rain gauges and hydrometric scales and training beneficiaries in their use etc..)

- **Facilitation of co-ordination**

Support initiatives to facilitate co-ordination among institutions working on disaster preparedness, prevention and response (e.g. inter-institutional meetings, interactive products...)

- **Institutional strengthening**

Services and equipment delivered to strengthen institutional capacity on risk reduction (e.g. training of health authorities on humanitarian supply management tools, training of firemen on rescue procedures, and training of civil defence officials on emergency communications...)

- **Education**

Activities aimed at creating a “culture of prevention” within the formal education system, pursuing a change of attitude and practice (e.g. design and production of training materials for pupils, training of teachers, simulations conducted at school level...)

- **Advocacy and public awareness raising**

Communication activities aimed at raising awareness of disaster risk reduction issues among authorities and the general public (e.g. radio spots, articles published in newspapers and magazines, leaflets, posters, conferences...)

- **Mapping and data computerization**

Mapping and data computerization linked with the study of hazards and vulnerabilities and the elaboration of emergency plans (e.g. data collection for risk mapping purposes - scientific maps, development of mapping software and training on its use, printing of risk maps, printing of emergency plans...)

- **Research and dissemination**

Technical studies, workshops and surveys conducted in order to increase knowledge about preparedness issues and dissemination of the results (e.g. organization of workshops/seminars aimed at the dissemination of project results...)

3 - Duration expected for actions in the proposed Decision:

The duration for the implementation of this Decision shall be 18 months. The extended duration of the Decision is necessary, because DIPECHO programme evaluations have repeatedly recommended a 15-month period for effective implementation of DIPECHO operations. This reflects the fact that there are usually several project phases, culminating in a disaster simulation or final publicity event, to consolidate the learning process. Moreover, experience shows that Start Dates will vary, thus a 18-month decision duration is optimum. Humanitarian operations funded by this Decision must be implemented within this period.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 01 September 2007

Start Date: 01 September 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.

5 - Overview of donors' contributions

5.1. Coordination with other Commission departments

Since September 2001, coordination on DRR and in particular on Disaster Preparedness issues has been ongoing with DG External Relations (RELEX) and DG AIDCO (co-operation Office) in order to encourage an increased involvement of these services in this field.

Moreover, since the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in Kobe, Japan (January 2005), significant progress has been made in promoting DRR dialogue within the European Commission.

In the Andean Region, a EUR12 million project funded by the European Commission and the Andean Community is ongoing. It is entitled "Strengthening disaster preparedness and prevention in the Community of the Andean Nations – CAN" (PREDECAN) and aims at improving services in the area of risk management and prevention of losses due to natural disasters through the strengthening of national policies, institutions and coordination of activities in the area of disaster preparedness and prevention. The project includes the development of national risk management systems for disaster prevention in the five Andean countries, technical tools and technologies as well as manuals, guidelines and electronic information networks. Regular contact is maintained at field level in order to establish links between PREDECAN and DIPECHO operations. Actions under this Decision should complement this EC regional project, by focusing on preparedness at local level. DIPECHO partners are invited to participate in workshops and seminars planned under the PREDECAN programme in order to share information and establish links. PREDECAN representatives participated in almost all the national workshops that took place to prepare this new Action Plan, and during the regional DIPECHO seminar of April 2007, a common presentation of EC interventions and support to the Andean strategy in DRR was presented.

On a general level, regular contact is maintained at field level between DIPECHO and the European Commission Delegations in order to maximize linkages between programmes.

In addition, the European Commission contributes with EUR 35 million to a disaster prevention project in the State of Vargas in Venezuela until the end of 2007. There is a good collaboration between this initiative, which focuses mainly on infrastructure support and the DIPECHO programme. During the last DIPECHO seminar in Venezuela, the project was invited to present its main results and called for a DIPECHO project in the region to complement its activities at community based level.

5.2 Member States

In April 2007, DG ECHO requested Humanitarian Aid Committee (HAC) members to provide information about projects in the area of disaster preparedness and prevention funded by them in the region. At the time of drafting this Decision, details had not been provided.

However, before the projects start under this Action Plan, every effort will be made to facilitate coordination and complementarities of operations funded under this Decision with on-going or planned operations in DRR supported by Member States.

5.3. – Other Donors:

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (COSUDE)

COSUDE has been very active in financing risk management initiatives in the Andean region:

- *In Bolivia:* By 2009, all projects launched by COSUDE in the country will have a DRR component integrated into their design.
- *In Colombia:* Prevention of glaciers, volcanoes and hydro-meteorological hazards in the river basins of Combeima and Paez, Cordillera Central; the objective of the project is to reduce the impact of natural disasters on the population and infrastructure through the identification, knowledge and analysis of the threat, the risk, vulnerabilities and local capacities and the development of a monitoring system and EWS together with the communities 26 months (no budget details provided).
- *In Ecuador:* Prevention of risks associated with the possible eruption of Cotopaxi volcano (USD 95,490); Management Risk project in the city of Portoviejo (USD 248,555).
- *In Peru:* Prevention and mitigation of natural disasters (USD 360,000).

Inter American Development Bank

- *In the LAC Region:* USD10.000.000 through the Financing Disaster Prevention mechanism (DPF)
- *In Ecuador:* USD6.250.000 Early Warning System and Natural Risk Management (started in December 2005 for 3 years)
- *In Chile* USD160.000 Risk Management in Valparaíso (started in May 2006, ongoing)
- *In Colombia:* USD187.500 Galeras Volcan -Formulation of Action Plan to Mitigate Risk of Volcanic Activity (started in December 2006, ongoing)

World Bank:

- *In Colombia:* USD401.000.000 First Phase of Disaster Vulnerability Reduction project (started in May 2005) and USD200.000.000 for a Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project (started in March 2006)
- *In Argentina:* USD91.570.000 for an Urban Flood Prevention and Drainage project (started in June 2006) and USD190.000.000 Urban Flood Prevention and Drainage project (started in April 2005).

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: To reduce the impact of future disasters by preparing vulnerable populations in the areas most affected by recurrent natural hazards				
Specific objective	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Activities	Potential partners³⁶
Specific objective 1: To support strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for and mitigate natural disasters by enhancing their capacity to cope, thereby increasing resilience and decreasing vulnerability	6,500,000	<p>Bolivia: Departments of Beni and Pando and part of Santa Cruz and La Paz, Inter-Andean Valleys, South central, Altiplano.</p> <p>Colombia: Influence zones of Galeras, Nevado del Huila and Machín volcanoes, Coastal zones of Valle, Cauca and Nariño Departments, Alto and Bajo Magdalena region, Urban suburbs of Bogotá and surroundings</p> <p>Ecuador: Esmeraldas, Manabí, Los Ríos and Guayas (Cuenca del Río Daule) Provinces, Cotopaxi, Tunguragua, Chimborazo, Bolivar Provinces and surroundings of Reventador and Cayambe Volcanoes, Loja, Zamora and highest zones of El Oro Province</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Capacity building /training • Infrastructure support • Small-scale mitigation works • Early warning systems • Facilitation of co-ordination • Institutional strengthening • Education • Advocacy and public awareness raising • Mapping and data computerization • Research and dissemination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ACH - ACTIONAID - AYUDA EN ACCIÓN - CAFOD - CARE NL - CARITAS DEU - CISP - COOPI - COSV - CRIC - CROIX-ROUGE - DEU - CR-E - CR-F - CR-I - CR - NLD - DIAKONIE - FAO

³⁶ ACCION CONTRA EL HAMBRE, (ESP), ACTIONAID (GBR), AYUDA EN ACCIÓN, (E), CATHOLIC AGENCY FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT (GBR), CENTRO REGIONALE D INTERVENTO PER LA COOPERAZIONE (ITA), COMITATO DI COORDINAMENTO DELLE ORGANIZZAZIONI PER IL SERVIZIO VOLONTARIO (ITA), COMITATO INTERNAZIONALE PER LO SVILUPPO DEI POPOLI (ITA), COOPERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE (ITA), CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA (ITA), CROIX-ROUGE FRANCAISE, CRUZ ROJA ESPAÑOLA, (E), DEUTSCHE WELTHUNGERHILFE / GERMAN AGRO ACTION, (DEU), DEUTSCHER CARITASVERBAND e.V, (DEU), DEUTSCHES ROTES KREUZ, (DEU), DIAKONISCHES WERK der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland (DEU) , FEDERACION DE ASOCIACIONES MEDICUS MUNDI ESPANA, (E), FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE, FONDAZIONE TERRE DES HOMMES ITALIA ONLUS, GRUPPO DI VOLONTARIATO CIVILE (ITA), HET NEDERLANDSE RODE KRUIS (NLD), INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT GROUP LTD, INTERMON OXFAM, (E), INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (INT), MERCY CORPS SCOTLAND (GBR), OIKOS - COOPERAÇÃO E DESENVOLVIMENTO, OXFAM (GB), PLAN INTERNATIONAL (UK), SOLIDARIDAD INTERNACIONAL, (E), Stichting CARE Nederland, THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND (GBR), UNICEF, UNITED NATIONS - FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION, UNITED NATIONS - PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, UNITED NATIONS, OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, WORLD VISION – UK, WORLD VISION, (DEU)

		<p>Peru: Jungle zone (Ceja de Selva): eastern part of the Andean cordillera, between the 1800m and the Amazonian plain (llano amazónico), South East (Sur Oriente): Cusco, Puno, Ayacucho, Huancavelica, Apurimac and high zones of Arequipa and Moquegua , Piura and Lambayeque , Ancash region (specifically in callejon de Conchucos area)</p> <p>Venezuela: Trujillo, Merida and Tachira States (landslides, earthquakes, floods), Miranda, Vargas and Federal District States (earthquakes, landslides)</p> <p>Regional : Projects at the Andean Community or South America level; community based trans-borders initiatives between the Andean and other south American countries</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GERMAN AGRO ACTION - GVC - IFRC-FICR - INTERMON - IOM - MME - MERCY CORPS - SCOTLAND - OCHA - OIKOS - OXFAM GB - PAHO - PRACTICAL ACTION - PLAN UK - SC(UK) - SI - TDH IT - UNDP-PNUD - UNICEF - WFP-PAM - WVUK - WV DEU
TOTAL:	6,500,000			

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

8 - Budget Impact article 23 02 03

-	EC (EUR)
Initial Available Appropriations for 2007	19.500.000,00
Supplementary Budgets	
Transfers	
Total Available Credits	19.500.000,00
Total executed to date (by 13 April 2007)	1.500.000,00
Available remaining	18.000.000,00
Total amount of the Decision	6,500,000

Estimated payments schedule (EUR):

2007	2008	2009	TOTAL
3,250,000	1,950,000	1,300,000	6,500,000

9. - Management issues

Humanitarian aid actions funded by the Commission are implemented by NGOs, Specialised Agencies of the Member States, and the Red Cross organisations on the basis of Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) and by United Nations agencies based on the EC/UN Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) in conformity with Article 163 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation. These Framework agreements define the criteria for attributing grant agreements and financing agreements in accordance with Article 90 of the Implementing Rules and may be found at http://ec.europa.eu/echo/partners/index_en.htm.

Individual grants are awarded on the basis of the criteria enumerated in Article 7.2 of the Humanitarian Aid Regulation, such as the technical and financial capacity, readiness and experience, and results of previous interventions.