

**COMMISSION DECISION**  
**of**  
**on the financing of emergency humanitarian operations from the general budget of the**  
**European Communities in**  
**Nicaragua**

**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<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 2(a) and 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 4 September 2007 Hurricane Felix hit Nicaragua creating an emergency situation in several municipalities of the Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN)
- (2) During the first hours, rains up to 30 cm and winds of more than 260 kilometers per hour have caused severe damage to the country's infrastructure.
- (3) Victims are still in urgent need of medical assistance, emergency shelter, water and food supplies and relief assistance in general.
- (4) The duration of humanitarian aid operations financed by this Decision will be of a maximum of 6 months,
- (5) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 5,000,000 from budget line 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Communities is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to victims of Hurricane Felix 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 1605/2002<sup>2</sup>, Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002<sup>3</sup>, and Article 15 of the Internal Rules on the Implementation of the general budget of the European Communities<sup>4</sup>.

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 5,000,000 for emergency humanitarian

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6

<sup>2</sup> 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

<sup>3</sup> 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

<sup>4</sup> Commission Decision of 21.02.2007, C/2007/513

aid operations to provide the necessary assistance and relief to people in Nicaragua by using line 23 02 01 of the 2007 general budget of the European Communities.

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 Hurricane Felix

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

#### *Article 2*

1. The implementation of humanitarian aid operations funded by this Decision shall have a maximum duration of 6 months from their starting date.

2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 4 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 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*

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission



## **Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision**

**23 02 01**

Title: Emergency assistance to the victims of Hurricane Felix

Location of operation: Nicaragua

Amount of Decision: EUR 5,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/NIC/BUD/2007/02000

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### **Explanatory Memorandum**

#### **1 - Rationale, needs and target population.**

##### **1.1. - Rationale<sup>5</sup>:**

On Tuesday 04 September 2007 Category 5 Hurricane Felix made landfall at 04:45 a.m. local time in Sandy Bay, on the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. The affected areas are in the Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN), mainly communities of the southern and northern coastline of the town of Bilwi (municipality of Puerto Cabezas), the communities of Lower Río Coco (municipality of Waspam), the so-called Mining Triangle (Municipalities of Siuna, Bonanza and Rosita) and the area of Tasbapri (between Bilwi and Rosita). The departments of Jinotega and Nueva Segovia were also affected by intense rainfall and mudslides.

The situation is aggravated by the fact that the affected population in the RAAN has the worst health and nutrition indicators in the country, and is highly vulnerable to any disruption of food production or crop destruction. According to the last Nicaragua National Household living standards survey (EMNV 2005), 76.6% of the rural population in the RAAN is classified as living in poverty (37.8% in urban areas), and 34.2 % in rural areas and 9.8% in urban areas are estimated to be living in extreme poverty.

The National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Attention (SINAPRED) estimated damage at the end of September to be the following<sup>6</sup> :

- |                                     |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| • Total number of affected people   | 198,069 |
| • Total number of affected families | 33,687  |

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<sup>5</sup> Information compiled from the OCHA situation report 2

<sup>6</sup> Source: SINAPRED 19 September 2007

- Deaths 102 <sup>7</sup>
- Missing people 102

On 04 September, the President of Nicaragua issued decree no. 87-2007 declaring a State of Emergency in the RAAN. The decree ordered ministries and specialised institutions of SINAPRED to immediately intervene as necessary in accordance with the Recovery and Reconstruction Plan (RRP), with funds from the national budget and the international community, and to ensure that search and rescue operations continue in order to reach those still stranded and needing assistance.

In order to respond to the most urgent needs, the Commission adopted a EUR 1,000,000 Primary Emergency Decision on 07 September 2007.

## 1.2. - Identified needs:

- Food assistance and livelihood recovery

In the agriculture sector, 66,300 *manzanas* (manzana= 1,742 acres) were damaged and 5,063 livestock are reported dead (SINAPRED 19 September). According to an assessment by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO), in Waspam municipality alone 76% of the agricultural surface has been damaged.

The hurricane destroyed local food production and the existing reserves had already been consumed. An estimated 24% of children under the age of 5 already suffer from chronic malnutrition, and children aged 6-24 months will depend on external aid for survival for the next six months.

The local economy is dependant on agricultural and fishing activities. On 30 August 2007, 15,900 *manzanas* of rice and 6,700 of corn, which were in the process of being harvested at the moment of the disaster, were reported to be destroyed. Approximately 10,000 families living on the coastline, whose only economic activity is traditional fishing, have been affected by the loss and/or destruction of their fishing equipment, seriously affecting their livelihoods and food production capacity.

Due to the water pollution induced by organic decomposition, no fishing is allowed for the next months in some municipalities of the RAAN.

The World Food Programme (WFP) carried out an EFSA (emergency food security assessment) the week after the event. The main conclusions (to be considered as trends due to the methodology used) are:

- Several basic grain prices have increased (beans 30%-80%, corn 15%-30%)
- 59% of the surveyed families do not have seeds
- Only 12% of the surveyed families have food reserves
- 25% of families are classified in the category of severe food insecurity. 50% of families are classified as moderately food insecure.

- Water and sanitation

The hurricane struck urban and rural areas where water and sanitation systems and facilities were already very vulnerable to disasters. An estimated 9,094 wells, especially in lowlands and in communities located close to rivers, were affected by flooding and need urgent disinfection and rehabilitation. It is estimated that most household rain-water collection systems were destroyed by the strong winds. An estimated 12,173 latrines collapsed or were

<sup>7</sup> Up to 300 according to unofficial sources

severely damaged. National and local authorities and local NGOs have identified water and sanitation as one of the main priorities for the affected population. Rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities is also a priority for the resumption of education activities.

- Shelter

Official data (source SINAPRED 19 September) indicate that 20, 452 houses were affected in the municipalities of the RAAN, of which 11, 225 were completely destroyed and 9,227 are now roofless.

- Health

Immediate health needs include basic primary health care activities such as mobile health brigades under the coordination of the regional ministry of health, with the involvement of volunteers, promotion of healthy lifestyles and environment, focusing on shelters and isolated communities. Also of utmost importance is support to existing health services with water quality control, epidemiological surveillance and disease control as well as logistical support. The need for medicines and emergency health kits has also been confirmed. The PAHO<sup>8</sup>/World Health Organisation assessment indicates that the primary needs in the health sector are related to emergency rehabilitation of health centres; coordination, including logistics support to the Ministry of Health; setting up of a humanitarian supplies management system to better manage medical and other humanitarian supplies; epidemiological surveillance for disease control (including vector-borne disease control); water quality testing; and restoring hospital services to pre-hurricane levels.

- Non Food Items ((Protective kits, house kits, hygiene kits, etc.)

- Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation as a cross cutting issue: Priority will be given to operations which mainstream disaster risk reduction in their relief activities as this population will most probably continue to live in disaster prone areas.

### 1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

The Decision will target a population of 130, 000 people living in the municipalities of the Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN), affected by hurricane Felix. Priority will be given to remote areas whose needs are less covered by other donors.

### 1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints:

The main constraint is the isolation of the affected area and the impact of the hurricane (and associated winds and heavy rains) on the infrastructure (roads, bridges).

The adverse weather conditions also constitute a serious handicap for the implementation of operations in the affected area, as the hurricane season is not over until November.

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<sup>8</sup> UN Pan American Health Organization

## **2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:**

### **2.1. - Objectives:**

Principal objective:

To save and preserve lives in the aftermath of Hurricane Felix

Specific objectives:

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population affected by Hurricane Felix

### **2.2. - Components :**

- Food aid
- Livelihood recovery
- Water and Sanitation (including hygiene promotion)
- Non Food Items (Protective kits, house kits, hygiene kits, etc.)
- Shelter
- Health Care (Primary, emergency, psycho-social support etc.)
- Support to small-scale emergency rehabilitation of other infrastructures, such as rural roads and minor bridges.
- Disaster preparedness and mitigation

Transport and logistics will be of importance to all operations.

The needs assessment has been carried out in close coordination with all involved stakeholders (DG ECHO<sup>9</sup> partners, EC Delegation, UN agencies, Authorities...) taking into consideration all the available information. Sustainability of the projects will be ensured through disaster preparedness, mitigation and whenever possible or necessary through linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD). Most of the selected partners have a permanent base in the area: this will facilitate the follow up of their projects and the transition to further actions if needed. The partners have been requested to integrate in their proposal an exit strategy and to explain how they will link relief rehabilitation and development.

## **3 - Duration expected for actions in the proposed Decision:**

The duration of humanitarian aid operations shall be 6 months

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 04 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.

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<sup>9</sup> European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid

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

| List of previous DG ECHO operations in Nicaragua |                 |             |             |             |
|--|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Decision Number                                  | Decision Type   | 2005<br>EUR | 2006<br>EUR | 2007<br>EUR |
| ECHO/NIC/BUD/2007/01000                          | Prim. Emergency |             |             | 1,000,000   |
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|  |                 |             |             |             |
| Subtotal   |                 | 0           | 0           | 1,000,000   |
| Grand Total                                      |                 | 1,000,000   |             |             |

Dated : 20 September 2007  
Source : HOPE

## 5 - Overview of donors' contributions

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) almost USD 10,000,000 has been pledged for victims of Hurricane Felix from 44 different sources + in kind donations + USD 17,000,000 World Bank Credits

| Donors in Nicaragua the last 12 months |         |                        |           |           |     |
|--|---------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----|
| 1. EU Members States (*)               |         | 2. European Commission |           | 3. Others |     |
|  | EUR     |                        | EUR       |           | EUR |
| Austria                                |         | DG ECHO                | 2,250,000 |           |     |
| Belgium                                |         | Other services         |           |           |     |
|  |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Bulgaria                               |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Cyprus                                 |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Czech republic                         |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Denmark                                |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Estonia                                |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Finland                                |         |                        |           |           |     |
| France                                 | 50,000  |                        |           |           |     |
| Germany                                | 50,000  |                        |           |           |     |
| Greece                                 |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Hungary                                |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Ireland                                |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Italy                                  | 157,922 |                        |           |           |     |
| Latvia                                 |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Lithuania                              |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Luxemburg                              |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Malta                                  |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Netherlands                            |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Poland                                 |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Portugal                               |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Romania                                |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Slovakia                               |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Slovenie                               |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Spain                                  |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Sweden                                 | 313,255 |                        |           |           |     |
| United kingdom                         |         |                        |           |           |     |
| Subtotal                               | 571,177 | Subtotal               | 2,250,000 | Subtotal  | 0   |
|  |         | Grand total            | 2,821,177 |           |     |

Dated : 20 September 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 5,000,000



## 6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

| <b>Principal objective:</b> <i>To save and preserve lives in the aftermath of Hurricane Felix</i>    |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Specific objectives</b>   | <b>Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)</b> | <b>Geographical area of operation</b>      | <b>Potential partners<sup>10</sup></b>   |
| Specific objective 1:<br>Provision of humanitarian aid to the population affected by Hurricane Felix | 5,000,000   | Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ACH</li> <li>- ACTED</li> <li>- ASB e.V.</li> <li>- CR - NLD</li> <li>- GERMAN AGRO ACTION</li> <li>- OIKOS</li> <li>- OXFAM GB</li> <li>- PAHO</li> <li>- UNICEF</li> <li>- WFP-PAM</li> </ul> |
| TOTAL:5,000,000  |   |  |  |

<sup>10</sup> ACCION CONTRA EL HAMBRE, (ESP), AGENCE D'AIDE A LA COOPERATION TECHNIQUE ET AU DEVELOPPEMENT, (FR), ARBEITER-SAMARITER-BUND DEUTSCHLAND e.V., DEUTSCHE WELTHUNGERHILFE / GERMAN AGRO ACTION, (DEU), HET NEDERLANDSE RODE KRUIS (NLD), OIKOS - COOPERAÇÃO E DESENVOLVIMENTO, OXFAM (GB), UNICEF, UNITED NATIONS - PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

## 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](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/evaluation/index_en.htm).

## 8 - Budget Impact article 23 02 01

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| -  | CE (EUR)             |
| Initial Available Appropriations for <b>2007</b> | - 485,000,000        |
| Supplementary Budgets                            | - 5,049,104          |
| Transfers  | -                    |
| <b>Total Available Credits</b>                   | <b>- 490,049,104</b> |
| Total executed to date (by 30/09/07)             | - 433,557,467        |
| Available remaining                              | - 56,491,637         |
| <b>Total amount of the Decision</b>              | <b>- 5,000,000</b>   |

## 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](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.