

COMMISSION DECISION

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

Somalia

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid¹, and in particular Article 13 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) About 350,000 war-affected IDP are in urgent need of humanitarian relief in Southern and Central Region of Somalia;

(2) Immediate multi-sector assistance is needed, including Non-Food Items/Shelters, Food, Water, Health and Logistical Support;

(3) Humanitarian aid operations financed by this Decision should be of a maximum duration of 6 months;

(4) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 4,000,000 from budget line 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Communities is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to over 350,000 IDP taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions and other factors;

(5) 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 4,000,000** for emergency humanitarian aid operations to provide the necessary assistance and relief to 350,000 IDP in Somalia by using 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

3- 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

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(s):

- To provide multi-sector assistance to the war-affected population of Somalia, including Non-Food Items/Shelters, Food, Water, Health and Logistical Support.

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 as from their starting date.
2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible as from **1 May 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.
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

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 relief to Internally Displaced Population in Central-Southern Somalia

Location of operation: Somalia

Amount of Decision: EUR 4,000,000

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

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population.

1.1. - Rationale:

Since the end of December 2006, South Somalia has been experiencing a level of renewed open conflict which has not been seen since the early 1990s. The fighting has had a devastating impact on local populations and has so far caused some of the largest population displacements seen globally this year.

In particular, since mid-March, the aid community has seen Ethiopian troops and TFG (Transitional Federal Government) militias (predominantly Darod) carry out what can only be described as a veritable “blitzkrieg” against so called Islamist insurgents in Mogadishu. According to reliable sources, this resulted in an estimated 1,000 civilian fatalities, 4,000 war-wounded casualties and approx. 350,000 IDP (predominantly Hawyie). Since the beginning of 2006, Kenya and Yemen have also seen a steadily increasing refugee influx from Somalia, even if the closure of the Kenya/Somalia border in January 2007 has slow down this influx. The IDP population has been scattered throughout South Somalia, mostly concentrating in areas in Central Somalia and represents approximately one third of Mogadishu’s population. It should be noted that, due to the current circumstances and the nature of the situation in Somalia, it is difficult to assess the exact number of IDP. Aid agencies have been able to assess living conditions, and they have ascertained them to be extremely precarious. Many have had their homes destroyed and others are left with insufficient means or little or no will to return.

The majority of the IDP population has been caught out in the open at a time when the rainy season is upon them, adding to the hardship of being exposed to the elements. However, as if this was not enough, their plight is exacerbated by a major cholera outbreak emanating from Ethiopia, as an effect of the floods, and which is being spread throughout South Somalia by the same fleeing IDP population. Cholera cases have been recorded in all four corners of South Somalia, from Galgadud, Kismayo, Mogadishu and Gedo and all the places in between. There have since been an estimated 17,000 cases of cholera and a number of known fatalities in excess of 500. The current rainy season will only further increase the spread of the disease.

It is worth noting that this crisis follows a year in which Somalia experienced not only its worst drought, but its worst floods and its worst outbreak of Rift Valley Fever in a decade, with several bouts of open conflict in between, and now it has been suffering its worst fighting.

Even though each crisis has been subject to its own emergency relief efforts and responses, there has been no recovery time, or time allowing for some small respite before the onslaught of the next crisis. Each crisis has caused massive population displacements, human suffering and loss of livelihoods. Most countries tend to suffer one of the above mentioned shocks at a time and take a year to recover. Somalia is presently suffering from them all at once, in rapid succession, in addition to suffering from 16 years worth of civil turmoil, and their 14th precarious peace and reconciliation process. As a result, the coping mechanisms of the population are simply exhausted.

This catastrophic situation can only be seen as a layered situation on top of previous crisis and an increasingly tense situation of inter-clan hatred, widespread lawlessness and insecurity, exacting a heavy toll on human lives, meagre and fragile livelihoods. This is only serving to drive the populations into ever deeper poverty, despair and reliance on external humanitarian aid.

In response to growing humanitarian need in Somalia, on 3 May 2007, ICRC⁵ has launched a budget extension appeal for EUR 11,344,082 totally focused in the provision of assistance to IDP. Given the seriousness of the situation as it currently stands, and the potential for an ever growing emergency over the next three months, it is recommended that emergency relief interventions be supported in response to the current situation.

1.2. - Identified needs:

Assessments have been undertaken by many aid agencies in South Somalia and form the base of planned activities currently being designed by aid agencies active and operational in the affected zones.

Interventions will be specifically targeting the relief phase for a short period of time, the time needed for the rainy season to come to an end and for the situation to hopefully stabilise before a Global Plan will provide further funding to ensure continuation.

Non Food Items/Shelter: A huge effort has been undertaken in support of supplying NFI to the displaced communities. However, many of the areas of concentration are areas in which there has not been any humanitarian effort, so aid agencies have to mobilise operations in new locations. ICRC has been the aid agency that has undertaken the lion's share of the response mechanism to date, but as the needs are so scattered, joint efforts need to be

⁵ International Committee of the Red Cross
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supported in order to ensure neutral, impartial and independent assistance, as well as it being clan balanced.

Food: Many of the concentrated IDP communities are surviving thanks to the accommodating host communities. However, the current situation and circumstances have seen the price of food commodities quadruple (at least) and in some areas reach absurd levels. Supply and access roads have become much more insecure, and the availability and access to supplies and reserves are being exhausted. Even though food aid is being shipped to Somalia by WFP⁶, the lead time is approximately 3 months for it to arrive and to be distributed. ICRC will be seeking to procure food locally by undertaking a limited amount of local purchases (max. 10,000 MT⁷) of food stocks in areas where these are available and distribute them to the most vulnerable IDP.

Water: Given the cholera situation and mass displacement of local communities, emergency water trucking and water point rehabilitation is essential. Efforts are currently underway to ensure water delivery to approximately 60,000 people in various locations, but additional efforts need to be made to increase coverage.

Health: Medical supplies are required in many areas of South Somalia, in order to mitigate the consequences of the current mass movements of people, also as a result of the cholera outbreak. Ringer lactate is particularly needed, as well as medical support to treat the opportunistic infections being suffered by the IDP and host communities.

Logistical support: Aid agencies will need to be supported with the costs to cover some of the logistical needs to deliver and transport a lot of the supplies. Aid agencies often use private Somali transporters to undertake the movement of supplies, but costs and security risks are high.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

The beneficiary target is for an estimated 350,000 new IDP population and surrounding host communities covering the entire South and Central Somalia. Areas of particular focus will be Galgadud, Hiran, Lower Shabelle and Mogadishu (Benadir).

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints:

Unfortunately the risks are high and numerous. On one side, one has to acknowledge that the Ethiopian National Defence Force is *de facto* an occupying power, in control and is imposing harsh and nervous security controls. Suicide, remote control and car bombings are becoming a set feature in Somalia targeting Ethiopian and TFG targets.

At the same time, it is essential that the Transitional Federal Government could assist and facilitate the delivery of aid, by removing all administrative obstacles on aid agencies. The international community, including the EU⁸, has strongly advocated with the TFG for facilitating the provision of humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable part of the Somali population. As the current conflict is seen by most observers as an inter-clan fight between the Darod and the Hawiye, the risk of humanitarian aid being manipulated for political

⁶ World Food Programme

⁷ Metric tonnes

⁸ European Union

reasons are high. DG ECHO and its partners will closely monitor the implementation of projects in order to ensure that the relief be delivered according to humanitarian principles.

Given the high level of clan hatred, widespread lawlessness and insecurity and desperation, aid agencies will be exposed to the usual harassment so familiar in Somalia in which desperate measures are taken to racket or exact resources from the NGO⁹. Aid deliveries may be hijacked, blocked, looted or stolen.

The current conflict is clearly asymmetrical, with conventional forces and means being pitted against insurgent terror tactics. Muslim communities are being mobilised which will bring an added level of threat and danger to the safety of aid workers.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. - Objectives:

Principal objective: To provide immediate relief to IDP in Central-Southern Somalia

Specific objective: To provide multi-sector assistance to the war-affected population of Somalia, including Non-Food Items/Shelters, Food, Water, Health and Logistical Support.

2.2. - Components:

Non Food Items/Shelter: Purchase, delivery and distribution of NFI kits, shelter and plastic sheeting

Food: Limited local food purchases, delivery and distribution.

Water: Water trucking and water point rehabilitation.

Health: Purchase, delivery and distribution of medical supplies, equipment and support to medical facilities. Possible mobile clinics

Logistical support: Support for transport and security.

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 1 May 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 itself 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

⁹ Non-governmental organisation
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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 Somalia

Decision Number	Decision Type	2005 EUR	2006 EUR	2007 EUR
ECHO/SOM/BUD/2005/01000	Global Plan	9,000,000		
ECHO/SOM/BUD/2006/01000	Global Plan		10,000,000	
	Subtotal	9,000,000	10,000,000	0
	Grand Total	19,000,000		

Dated : 08 May 2007
 Source : HOPE

5 - Overview of donors' contributions

Donors in Somalia the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others(**)	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria		DG ECHO	11,428,571	Norway	1,190,765
Belgium	600,000	Other services		USA	14,581,618
Bulgaria				CERF	4,169,852
Cyprus				UNICEF	1,035,294
Czech republic				Japan	2,205,588
Denmark	379,305				
Estonia					
Finland	3,800,000				
France	483,700				
Germany	11,464,544				
Greece	50,000				
Hungary					
Ireland	5,614,021				
Italy	2,072,200				
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg					
Malta					
Netherlands	8,219,778				
Poland					
Portugal					
Romania					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain	1,645,991				
Sweden	6,591,486				
United kingdom	10,511,839				
Subtotal	51,432,864	Subtotal	11,428,571	Subtotal	23,183,117
		Grand total	62,861,435		

Dated : 08 May 2007

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

(**) source FTS 2007

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 4,000,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: <i>To provide immediate relief to IDP in Central-Southern Somalia</i>			
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Potential partners¹⁰
Specific objective 1: To provide multi-sector assistance to the war-affected population of Somalia, including Non-Food Items/Shelters, Food, Water, Health and Logistical Support	4,000,000	South and Central Somalia	- CARE - NL - COSV - I - ICRC-CICR - Islamic Relief - UK - OXFAM - GB - SC - UK
TOTAL: 4,000,000			

¹⁰ CARE INTERNATIONAL UK , COMITATO DI COORDINAMENTO DELLE ORGANIZZAZIONI PER IL SERVIZIO VOLONTARIO (ITA), COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR), ISLAMIC RELIEF , OXFAM (GB), THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND (GBR)

7 - Budget Impact article 23 02 01

-	CE (EUR)
Initial Available Appropriations for 2007	485,000,000.00
Transferts Commission	-
Total Available Appropriations	485,000,000.00
Total executed to date (11 May 2007)	360,145,694.95
Available remaining	124,854,305.05
Total amount of the Decision	4,000,000.00

8. 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.