

COMMISSION DECISION

On

The financing of emergency humanitarian operations from the general budget of the European Communities in Western Africa

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 Articles 2 (a) and 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Torrential rains in the last week of August and the first week of September have caused major flooding in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo. In light of the scale of the disaster, the Government of Ghana declared a state of emergency in these regions on 12 September.
- (2) Field needs assessments give an estimate of over 550,000 people seriously affected by the flooding and over 100 killed. Material damage includes the destruction of houses, crops, roads and other public infrastructure.
- (4) Humanitarian aid operations financed by this Decision should be of a maximum duration of 6 months.
- (5) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 2,000,000 from budget line 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Communities is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to over 300 000 victims of the flooding, taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions 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 2,000,000 for emergency

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

humanitarian aid operations to provide the necessary assistance and relief to the victims of the flooding in West Africa 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 objectives:

"To provide multi-sector relief and recovery assistance to the victims of the flooding"

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 12 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: Assistance to the victims of floods in West Africa

Location of operation: Western Africa

Amount of Decision: EUR 2,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/-WF/BUD/2007/02000

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population.

1.1. - Rationale :

From July to September 2007, the “African monsoon belt” (from Senegal in the west to Ethiopia in the east) experienced above normal rainfall and in some areas, extreme rainfall over very short periods of time. Localised small scale floods were reported from mid July in various parts of the Western Sahel region, such as in Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria.

Torrential rains that often exceeded the magnitude of events that recur every 20 years hit in particular the south of Burkina Faso and the northern regions of Togo and Ghana in the last weeks of August and early September. Serious flooding was quickly experienced in the entire “Volta river catchment area”, especially the Oti river basin and the White and Black Volta basins, causing enormous suffering for the population in the most affected areas. Over a hundred people were reported dead, with many hundreds injured and tens of thousands displaced.

Thousands of hectares of farmlands have been damaged and many villages have become temporarily inaccessible as bridges and roads were washed away. The mostly mud brick rural houses collapsed and many households have lost most of their belongings. Coping mechanisms and livelihoods were seriously affected with the loss of crops, food stocks and farm animals. Wells were flooded and polluted, increasing the high risk of water borne diseases.

The flooding was declared a national disaster by the Governments of Ghana and Togo on 12 September 2007.

1.2. - Identified needs after extensive needs assessments by DG ECHO field experts and partners:

- Food
- Non-food items
- Water
- Sanitation
- Health
- Emergency rehabilitation
- Logistics
- Food security
- Livelihoods

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned :

550.000 seriously affected people in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints :

- Continued heavy rains could complicate the provision of humanitarian assistance.
- Lack of implementing capacity and partners for immediate response.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. - Objectives :

Principal objective: To assist the victims of floods in West Africa

Specific objectives:

"To provide multi-sector relief and recovery assistance to the victims of the flooding"

2.2. - Components :

- **Emergency shelter** - The concern is for people who have found temporary shelter in public buildings, notably schools, to be urgently relocated to allow the new school season and community functions to restart again. Minimum support is also required for the victims hosted in the communities.
- **Food and emergency food security** - The rains have come at the tail end of the lean season, requiring some immediate local distribution of food to bridge the gap to this year's harvests that are expected to be good apart for those who lost part or all of their produce, food stocks (many granaries were lost in several regions), cattle, poultry and small ruminants, farm tools and other livelihoods.
- **Non-Food Items (NFI)** - Many households have lost their household goods in the flooding and need urgent replacement of kitchen sets, essential household items, clothes, mosquito nets and tools.

- **Drinking water** - many wells have become flooded and polluted as a result of the floods and the subsequent high water-table. Collapsed wells need to be repaired and all wells need to be decontaminated and their water quality monitored. In some areas, partially due to displacement of affected people, some new wells are required to be drilled. There are few places where people have found temporary refuge, requiring water-tanks and distribution ramps as urgent intermediate solutions. Individual chlorination products have to be distributed in the meantime
- **Sanitation and environmental health** - Chlorination of water-sources and stored water and the reduction of people's exposure to malaria through the distribution of Insecticide Treated Nets (ITN's) are further measures that are being taken. Concern about the risk of epidemics (cholera) and other water borne disease requires action to restore the provision of basic health services.
- **Urgent shelter rehabilitation** - People with partial damage to their housing are expected to start rehabilitating them soon. This extra strain on their resources risks aggravating vulnerability and further damaging their coping mechanisms which will come under strain during next year's hungry period. Timely targeted assistance to this category of beneficiaries should largely avoid this.

In order to maximise the impact of the humanitarian aid for the victims, the Commission will use the DG ECHO⁵ West Africa Regional Support Office located at Dakar, Senegal. This office will appraise project proposals, co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of humanitarian operations financed by the Commission. The office will provide technical assistance capacity and the necessary logistics for the achievement of these tasks. Mid and long term impact on food security in the area (already under stress after years of droughts and with high malnutrition rates) will be assessed in coordination with EC Delegations in the region for further action.

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 12 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 Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid - ECHO
ECHO-WF/BUD/2007/02000

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

There were no specific DG ECHO operations in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo over the past 3 years.

- Burkina Faso benefited from the funding of operations under the 2005 West Africa Epidemics decision (€241.000 from ECHO/-WF/BUD/2005/02000) and under the 2006 West Africa Epidemics decision (€364.760 from ECHO/-WF/BUD/2006/01000).
- Burkina Faso has also benefited from the Sahel Global Plan (€3.047.834 from ECHO/-WF/BUD/2007/01000).
- Togo has benefited under the Second 2006 Food aid decision (€500.000 from ECHO/-FA/BUD/2007/02000).

5 - Overview of donors' contributions

| Donors in Burkina Faso/Ghana/Togo the last 12 months | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----|
| 1. EU Members States (*) | | 2. European Commission | | 3. Others | |
| | EUR | | EUR | | EUR |
| Austria | | DG ECHO | 4,925,000 | | |
| Belgium | | Other services | | | |
| Bulgaria | | | | | |
| Cyprus | | | | | |
| Czech republic | | | | | |
| Denmark | | | | | |
| Estonia | | | | | |
| Finland | | | | | |
| France | 200,000 | | | | |
| Germany | 50,000 | | | | |
| Greece | | | | | |
| Hungary | | | | | |
| Ireland | 250,000 | | | | |
| Italy | 150,000 | | | | |
| Latvia | | | | | |
| Lithuania | | | | | |
| Luxemburg | 570,000 | | | | |
| Malta | | | | | |
| Netherlands | | | | | |
| Poland | | | | | |
| Portugal | | | | | |
| Romania | | | | | |
| Slovakia | | | | | |
| Slovenie | | | | | |
| Spain | | | | | |
| Sweden | 259,389 | | | | |
| United kingdom | | | | | |
| Subtotal | 1,479,389 | Subtotal | 4,925,000 | Subtotal | 0 |
| | | Grand total | 6,404,389 | | |

Dated : 03 October 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 2,000,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

| Principal objective: <i>To assist the victims of floods in West Africa</i> | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Specific objectives | Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR) | Geographical area of operation | Potential partners⁶ |
| Specific objective 1: To Provide multi-sector relief and recovery assistance to the victims of the flooding. | 2,000,000 | Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo | - DCV - CONCERN UNIVERSAL - CR-E - CRF - IFRC-FICR - INTERMON - OXFAM GB - Plan Germany - Plan UK - UNHCR - UNICEF - WFP-PAM |
| TOTAL:2,000,000 | | | |

⁶ CONCERN UNIVERSAL (GBR), CROIX-ROUGE FRANCAISE, CRUZ ROJA ESPAÑOLA, (E), DEUTSCHER CARITASVERBAND e.V, (DEU), FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE, INTERMON OXFAM, (E), OXFAM (GB), PLAN INTERNATIONAL (UK), Plan International Deutschland e.V., UNICEF, UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES - BELGIUM, 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.

8 - Budget Impact article 23 02 01

| - | CE (EUR) |
|--|----------------|
| Initial Available Appropriations for 2007 | 485.000.000,00 |
| Supplementary Budgets | - |
| Transfers | - |
| Total Available Credits | 485.000.000,00 |
| Total executed to date (by 9 October 2007) | 438.275.694,95 |
| Available remaining | 46.724.305,05 |
| Total amount of the Decision | 2.000.000 |

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.