

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

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 2(a) and Article 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 15 May 2008 the International Federation of the Red Cross launched an Emergency Appeal following the major earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter Scale which struck Sichuan Province in China around 100 kilometres northwest of the capital Chengdu causing major devastation throughout the region.
- (2) Over 2.5 million people have been affected by the earthquake, more than 20,000 people are dead, over 100,000 people are injured, over 1,000,000 houses have been destroyed and these statistics are likely to increase substantially in the coming days.
- (3) Victims are in urgent need of food, drinking water, tents, warm clothes, blankets and other relief items as well as medical assistance.
- (4) The duration of humanitarian operations financed by this Decision will be of a maximum of 3 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 victims of the Sichuan earthquake, 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.

1- OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1882/2003 (OJ L 284, 31.10.2003, p. 1).

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 and by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1525/2007 of 17 December 2007, OJ L 343 of 27.12.2007, p. 9.

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 5.3.2008, C/2008/773
ECHO/CHN/BUD/2008/01000

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 humanitarian aid operations to provide the necessary assistance and relief to victims of the Sichuan earthquake in China by using line 23 02 01 of the 2008 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 life saving support to victims of the Sichuan earthquake in China.
The total amount of this Decision is allocated to this objective.

Article 2

1. The implementation of humanitarian aid operations funded by this Decision shall have a maximum duration of 3 months from their starting date.
2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 15 May 2008.
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 of the specificities of humanitarian aid, the nature of the activities to be undertaken, the specific location constraints and the level of urgency, the activities covered by this Decision may be financed in full in accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation.

Article 4

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Director-General of DG ECHO



Primary Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision

23 02 01

Title: Primary emergency assistance to the victims of the Sichuan earthquake in China

Location of operation: China

Amount of Decision: EUR 2,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/CHN/BUD/2008/01000

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population.

1.1. - Rationale:

The earthquake of magnitude 7.8 which struck the south western province of Sichuan in China Province was one of the worst earthquakes to hit China in the last thirty years and tremors were felt as far away as Bangkok and Hanoi. The earthquake's epicentre was in Wenchuan County, a mountainous area around 100 km north west of Sichuan's capital, Chengdu. Neighbouring provinces and municipalities were also affected, including Shaanxi, Guizhou, Gansu, Qinghai, Chongqing, Yunnan and Hubei.

Over 2,500,000 people are estimated to be directly affected by the earthquake. Figures on the numbers of deaths and physical destruction at this stage still give a very partial picture, as the worst affected areas have only just been reached and relief workers are finding few survivors. By way of illustration, rescuers reaching Yingxiu could only confirm 2,000 alive out of a village of 10,000 inhabitants. Main urban areas affected include Mianyang City (7,400 dead, possibly 18,000 buried), Deyang City (2,600 dead, possibly 4,800 buried) and Guangyuan City (700 dead). As of 15 May more than 19,000 people are reported dead, over 100,000 injured and over 12,000 people missing. Almost 1,000,000 houses have collapsed or been destroyed⁵. These figures will almost certainly increase substantially in the coming weeks.

The Chinese authorities responded immediately to the disaster activating the highest level of emergency response according to their National Plan on Emergency Response for Disaster Relief. A massive mobilisation of military, people's armed police, paramilitary specialist disaster-relief teams and medical staff were ordered to mobilize with the battle to save lives as their priority. Military and civilian rail and air transport were requisitioned for the

⁵ OCHA Situation Report 15 May 2008
ECHO/CHN/BUD/2008/01000

movement of relief supplies. The disruption of transport routes, broken water supplies and adverse weather conditions however are hampering the relief effort. Fears of the effects of further aftershocks are also a serious concern for the communities and rescue efforts.

1.2. - Identified needs:

Impact and identified needs were difficult to assess in the days following the earthquake. The Chinese authorities issued a call for international assistance and indicated that cash and in-kind contributions are preferred, especially tents, medicine, first aid kits, ready-to-eat food, tarpaulins, blankets clothing, flashlights and emergency lanterns.

The International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) issued a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Appeal amounting to CHF 250,000 and then an Emergency Appeal for CHF 20,076,412 on 15 May 2008. The immediate needs identified are food, drinking water, tents, blankets, warm clothes, jerry cans, kitchen sets, illuminating equipment and medical services including disease control.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

The most affected regions are Sichuan Province and neighbouring provinces and municipalities including Shaanxi, Guizhou, Gansu, Chongqing, Yunnan, Qinghai and Hubei.

The total number of people affected by the earthquake is estimated at over 2,500,000.

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints:

It will be several weeks before the extent of the devastation is known following more detailed damage and needs assessments.

One of the main constraints for relief operations is the serious disruption to transport routes, communication lines and water supplies in the worst affected areas.

In addition coordination of relief operations is tightly controlled by the Chinese authorities and there are some limitations on access to the worst affected areas.

Poor weather conditions, especially heavy rain, are also hampering the relief effort.

Fears of further aftershocks continue to be a serious concern.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. - Objectives:

Principal objective: To save and preserve lives in the aftermath of the Sichuan earthquake in China.

Specific objective: Provision of life saving support to victims of the Sichuan earthquake in China.

2.2. - Components:

- Food
- Shelter
- Water and sanitation
- Domestic items (including blankets, clothes, kitchen sets)
- Health care

3 - Duration expected for actions in the proposed Decision:

The duration of humanitarian aid operations shall be 3 months.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 15 May 2008, namely the date of the IFRC Emergency Appeal.

If the implementation of the actions envisaged in this Decision is suspended due to *force majeure* or any comparable circumstance, the period of suspension will not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the humanitarian aid operations.

Depending on the evolution of the situation in the field, the Commission reserves the right to terminate the agreements signed with the implementing humanitarian organisations where the suspension of activities is for a period of more than one third of the total planned duration of the action. In this respect, the procedure established in the general conditions of the specific agreement will be applied.

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

List of previous DG ECHO ⁶ operations in CHINA				
Decision Number	Decision Type	2006 EUR	2007 EUR	2008 EUR
	Subtotal	0	0	0
	Grand Total	0		

Dated : 15 May 2008
Source : HOPE

⁶ European Commission, Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid
ECHO/CHN/BUD/2008/01000

5 - Overview of donors' contributions

Donors in CHINA the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria		DG ECHO	0		
Belgium		Other services			
Bulgaria					
Cyprus					
Czech republic	60				
Denmark					
Estonia					
Finland					
France					
Germany	130,000				
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland	200,000				
Italy	400,000				
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg					
Malta					
Netherlands					
Poland	28,000				
Portugal					
Romania					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain					
Sweden	314,449				
United kingdom					
Subtotal	1,072,509	Subtotal	0	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	1,072,509		

Dated : 16 May 2008

(*) Source : DG ECHO 14 Points reporting for Members States. <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hac>
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 save and preserve lives in the aftermath of the Sichuan earthquake in China</i>			
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Potential partners⁷
Specific objective 1: Provision of life saving support to victims of the Sichuan earthquake in China	2,000,000	China	- IFRC-FICR
TOTAL: 2,000,000			

⁷ FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE

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 2008	486,095,000.00
Transfers Commission	-
Total available appropriations	486,095,000.00
Total executed to date (by 16 May 2008)	411,650,000.00
Available remaining	74,445,000.00
Total amount of the Decision	2,000,000.00

BUDGETARY IMPACT STATEMENT

(cf. Article 16 of the Internal Rules)

POLICY AREA: EXTERNAL RELATIONS

ACTIVITY: HUMANITARIAN AID

**TITLE OF THE ACTION: PRIMARY EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN AID DECISION:
"PRIMARY EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO THE VICTIMS OF THE SICHUAN EARTHQUAKE IN
CHINA" – ECHO/CHN/BUD/2008/01000**

1. BUDGET HEADING CONCERNED AND TITLE

23.02.01 – Humanitarian Aid

2. LEGAL BASIS

Council Regulation (EC) No1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid.

3. OVERALL FIGURES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR (IN EUROS)

■ 3.a – Current year

		CA
Initial appropriation for the financial year (budget)		486.095.000
Transfers		
Additional appropriation		
Total appropriation		486.095.000
Appropriations already set aside by another work programme	Date 15/05/2008	411.650.000
Balance available		74.445.000
Amount for the action proposed		2.000.000

■ 3.b – Carry-overs

Not applicable

■ **3.c – Next financial year**

Not applicable

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

To save and preserve lives in the aftermath of the Sichuan earthquake in China.

5. METHOD OF CALCULATION ADOPTED

Not applicable

6. PAYMENT SCHEDULE (IN EURO)

Not applicable