

**COMMISSION DECISION**  
**on the financing of humanitarian operations from the general budget of the European Communities in Central Asia<sup>1</sup> (DIPECHO)<sup>2</sup>**

**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>3</sup>, and in particular Articles 2(f), 4 and 15(2) thereof:

Whereas:

- 1) Central Asia regularly experiences a wide range of natural disasters and in particular landslides, mudslides, floods and earthquakes.
- 2) Vulnerable communities and the local, regional and national authorities' capacities in the region are insufficient to cope with disasters given the impact these events have on the population. In Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, vulnerable communities and the local, regional and national authorities are ill-prepared and ill-equipped to cope with these disasters. In Turkmenistan, there is still a significant need for disaster risk reduction awareness at the community level. Kazakhstan appears to be a lower priority country for this programme due to higher economic levels and better coping capacities.
- 3) Disaster risks and exposure to hazards are applicable to communities living in border areas of Southern Tajikistan and Northern Afghanistan.
- 4) Disaster Preparedness in Central Asia, and Tajikistan in particular, is complementary to the process of linking relief to rehabilitation and development (LRRD). It is also a very efficient way to reduce the impact of disaster on the population and consequently also to reduce the costs of humanitarian aid being delivered in the aftermath of a disaster.
- 5) The principal objective in these countries is to reduce the vulnerability of populations living in areas most affected by recurrent natural disasters.
- 6) Strategies should be supported which enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for, mitigate and respond adequately to natural disasters by enhancing their capacity to cope and respond, thereby increasing resilience and reducing vulnerability.
- 7) Past experiences from the four previous DIPECHO Action Plans implemented in the region, as well as from the two external evaluations<sup>4</sup> carried out, lead to the conclusion that Disaster Preparedness projects should be financed by the Community for a period of 18 months.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this Decision, the Central Asia countries involved are: Tajikistan including cross-border initiatives with Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan

<sup>2</sup> "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

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6

<sup>4</sup> December 2003, Evaluation of DG ECHO's strategic orientation to disaster reduction available on DG ECHO's website of: [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/pdf\\_files/evaluation/2003/disaster\\_report.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/pdf_files/evaluation/2003/disaster_report.pdf) and - 'Evaluation of DIPECHO Action Plans Central Asia', July 2006 executed by Transtec in association with Prolog  
[ECHO/DIP/BUD/2008/01000](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/pdf_files/evaluation/2006/dipecho_evaluation_central_asia.pdf)

- 8) In order to maximise the impact of the Disaster Preparedness programme and its impact on the vulnerable populations targeted, it is necessary to maintain a technical capacity assistance in the field charged, among others, with the monitoring and coordination of projects.
- 9) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 7,325,000 from budget line 23 02 03 of the general budget of the European Communities is necessary to provide disaster preparedness activities for at least 2,000,000 beneficiaries, taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions and other factors.
- 10) Notwithstanding the implementation period laid down in Article 2, and the conditionality of this Decision upon the availability of funds laid down in Article 4, it is necessary to adopt it without delay with a view to launch the call for proposals required for its implementation;
- 11) The present Decision constitutes a financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002<sup>5</sup> Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002<sup>6</sup>, and Article 15 of the internal rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Communities<sup>7</sup>
- 12) In accordance with Article 17 (3) of Regulation (EC) No.1257/96, the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave a favourable opinion on 24 January 2008.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

1. In accordance with the principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of EUR 7,325,000 for humanitarian aid operations reducing the vulnerability of populations living in areas most affected by recurrent natural hazards (Fifth DIPECHO Action Plan for Central Asia) by using line 23 02 03 of the 2008 general budget of the European Communities.
2. In accordance with Articles 2(f) and 4 of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objectives:
  - To support strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for, mitigate and respond adequately to natural disasters by enhancing their capacities to cope and respond, thereby increasing their resilience and reducing their vulnerability.
  - To maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field, to assess needs, appraise project proposals and coordinate and monitor the implementation of disaster preparedness operations.

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<sup>5</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>6</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>7</sup> Commission Decision of 21.2.2007, C/2007/513

The amounts allocated to each of these specific objectives are listed in the annex to this Decision.

#### *Article 2*

1. The duration for the implementation of this Decision shall be for a maximum period of 18 months, starting on 1 July 2008.
2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 1 July 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 implementation of this Decision.

#### *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:
  - Non-profit-making organisations which fulfil the eligibility and suitability criteria established in Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1257/96; and
  - International organisations and agencies.
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.

#### *Article 4*

1. The implementation of this financing Decision shall be conditional upon the necessary funds being available under the 2008 General Budget of the European Communities.
2. This Decision will take effect on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission

## Annex: Breakdown of allocations by specific objectives

<b>Principal objective:</b> To reduce the vulnerability of Central Asia populations living in areas most affected by recurrent natural hazards	
<b>Specific objectives</b>	<b>Amount per specific objective (EUR)</b>
To support strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for, mitigate and respond adequately to natural disasters by enhancing their capacities to cope and respond, thereby increasing their resilience and reducing their vulnerability.	6,950,000
To maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field, to assess needs, to appraise project proposals and to coordinate and to monitor the implementation of disaster preparedness operations.	375,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,325,000</b>



## Humanitarian Aid Decision

**23 02 03**

Title: Fifth DIPECHO Action Plan for Central Asia<sup>8</sup>

Location of operation: Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Afghanistan for cross border initiatives with Tajikistan only

Amount of Decision: EUR 7,325,000

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

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### Explanatory Memorandum

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

##### 1.1. - Rationale :

According to Article 2(f) of Humanitarian Aid Regulation (EC) of 20 June 1996<sup>9</sup>, DG ECHO's<sup>10</sup> activities in the field of Disaster Preparedness shall be "to ensure preparedness for risks of natural disasters or comparable circumstances and use a suitable rapid early-warning and intervention system".

The DIPECHO (Disaster Preparedness ECHO) programme was set-up in 1996 by the European Commission to improve the capacity of communities at risk to better prepare for and protect themselves against natural disasters. In 2003, following a global evaluation on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)<sup>11</sup>, Central Asia became the sixth DIPECHO region to be targeted by the Programme after Central America, Andean Community, Caribbean, South Asia and South East Asia. The evaluation of the first three Action Plans has concluded that the DIPECHO programmes have had an appropriate effect in reducing the impact of hazards, ensuring preparedness to respond, and establishing and continuing support of early warning/intervention system.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Central Asia in the context of this explanatory memorandum comprises Tajikistan and Afghanistan for cross borders initiatives with Tajikistan only, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan

<sup>9</sup> EC Regulation N°1257/96 of 20 June 1996, OL L163 of 02.07.1996.

<sup>10</sup> Directorate-General for humanitarian aid – DG ECHO

<sup>11</sup> December 2003, Evaluation of DG ECHO's strategic orientation to disaster reduction available on DG ECHO's website of: [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/pdf\\_files/evaluation/2003/disaster\\_report.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/pdf_files/evaluation/2003/disaster_report.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/evaluation/thematic\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/evaluation/thematic_en.htm)

Central Asia is indeed, particularly exposed to natural disasters such as landslides, avalanches, floods, earthquakes and drought. The losses and destruction that result from these disasters are considerably high from a social and economic point of view, reducing the development potential of the poorer countries and specific provinces of the region where large proportions of the population live in remote areas.

This is mainly due to its geological nature (young mountains still in formation combined with the frequent occurrence of earthquakes) and to the fact that a large part of its territory is covered by mountains. The high risk of mudflows, avalanches, floods and landslides is directly related to the mountainous nature of the region. The tendency of the population to settle in the valleys and along riverbanks makes them more vulnerable to disasters (flood, mudflows, landslides). In addition, the construction of very large infrastructures (dams), the presence of polluting industries and radioactive waste dumped in the region all increase the level of hazards. All in all, these factors highlight the need to invest in community-based disaster preparedness and response capacity.

In all countries in this region, the occurrence of a major earthquake is a permanent threat, putting a large proportion of the local economy at risk.<sup>13</sup> In Tajikistan, where 42.8% of the population live with less than 2 USD/day<sup>14</sup>, the effects and frequency of natural disasters aggravate the situation. Tajikistan has also been rated as one of the countries most at risk in terms of potential disasters and economic losses.<sup>15</sup> Certain provinces of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan face similar risks to those of Tajikistan.

Moreover, high on the present political agenda is the concept of “*climate change*” which has been taken into account when dealing with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). While the direct link between the increase of natural phenomena and the increase of their impact cannot be established, a practical approach is to raise the level of awareness among local populations about changes in the environment and about the need for adaptation.

Following the Hyogo Framework of Action launched at the World Disaster Reduction Conference in Kobe in January 2005, the Central Asian region has drafted a Disaster Reduction Strategic Framework. This has been done with the support of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), now present in the region. Whilst Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan have already adopted their National Disaster Reduction plan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan are still in the preparation process.

The DIPECHO Action Plans for Central Asia have channelled EUR 15,000,000 to Disaster Preparedness activities since 2003 and have thus helped to encourage initiatives at all levels. Under the fourth DIPECHO Action Plan, Tajikistan has benefited from some 60% of those funds, Kirghizstan and Uzbekistan 30% and the remaining 10% have been allocated to some regional actions implemented by UN/ISDR and to Turkmenistan.

In November 2007, the first regional consultative meeting (RCM) on Disaster Risk Reduction, was organised in Dushanbe by DG ECHO. This conference was very successful

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<sup>13</sup> Preventable Losses: Saving Lives and Property through Hazard Risk Management; A Comprehensive Risk Management Framework for Europe and Central Asia, Christophe Pusch, The World Bank, 2004.

<sup>14</sup> See <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/ECAEXT/TAJIKISTANEXTN/>

<sup>15</sup> Natural Disasters Hotspots: A Global Risk Analysis, The World Bank and Columbia University, March 2005.

due to high attendance and the intensity of the discussions. Three countries were represented at the level of Ministers. It was clearly indicated that the European Commission, through DG ECHO and its DIPECHO programme, is one of the largest donors in the field of DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) in Central Asia and DIPECHO activities appear very relevant to all stakeholders. It was also recognized that through the DIPECHO Programme, DG ECHO has increased the political and societal awareness of DRR and the importance of community-based initiatives. Furthermore, DG ECHO's investments in pilot schemes allow new approaches and ideas to be tested. Longer-term donors are therefore now increasingly building on DG ECHO's experiences in their own DRR investments.

The reinforcement of regional cooperation in the field of DRR has already been considered necessary and offers the opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation in general. This will be also supported through the setting-up of a regional center on risk prevention as decided at the New Delhi conference<sup>16</sup> held on 7-8 November 2007 and through the establishment of a regional peace centre<sup>17</sup> by the UN, which should also be active in the field of disaster prevention.

The RCM also provided clear evidence of the quality of the work carried out by DIPECHO partners and their ability to build disaster preparedness capacities in the region. Moreover, the DIPECHO approach is starting to be replicated by other donors (Asian Development Bank, Swiss Development Cooperation Agency and the World Bank), while other stakeholders have already planned to include a similar approach in their future activities.

Coordination between governments and partners active in Disaster Preparedness has been improved during the implementation of the fourth DIPECHO Action Plan by setting-up coordination groups in Kirghizstan and Uzbekistan and by reinforcing the activities of the REACT<sup>18</sup> group in Tajikistan. This coordination process still needs to continue to be reinforced.

It is generally recognised that the integration of DRR in development and cooperation policies should become systematic, as risk and vulnerability are crucial elements for reducing the negative impacts of hazards, thus contributing to the achievement of sustainable development, poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals. The more a vulnerable population is exposed to natural disasters which exhaust its coping mechanisms, the more difficult it becomes for it to emerge from the spiral of increased vulnerability.

The strategic logic of this Fifth DIPECHO Action Plan is based on the priorities for Action identified in the **Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015 (HFA): "Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters"**.

After the tsunami disaster in South and South East Asia in 2004, DRR, especially early warning systems, became the focus of international, regional and national efforts. In April 2005 the European Commission, in its Communication **"Reinforcing EU Disaster and Crisis Response in third countries"**,<sup>19</sup> addressed the issue of how to improve preparedness and response to disasters. This document also considers the Hyogo Framework for Action as the starting point of its strategy.

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<sup>16</sup> See the declaration of this conference on <http://www.amcdrindia.com/declaration.asp>

<sup>17</sup> In August 2007, the UN decided the establishment of the regional peace centre – UN Centre for Preventive Diplomacy – in Ashgabat

<sup>18</sup> Information on the **REACT** (Rapid Emergency Assessment Coordination Team) group is available on the internet site <http://www.untj.org/?c=7&id=49>

<sup>19</sup> COM (2005) 153, 20 April 2005.

Moreover, the European Commission, in its Communication on “**Towards a European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid**”<sup>20</sup>, also expressed its commitment to further promote disaster preparedness by:

- promoting international efforts within the HFA to increase coping capacities at local, regional and national levels through strategic planning and action;
- mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in humanitarian and development operations and ensuring that adequate European Union (EU) funding is made available for disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities;
- establishing an overall EU policy approach to support action in this area.

A European Commission Communication on DRR is being prepared and is expected to be adopted in 2008.

In addition, on 27 April 2007 the European Commission formally adopted the regional Strategy Paper for Assistance to Central Asia (CA RSP) 2007-2013<sup>21</sup>. The aim of this paper is to promote the stability and security of the countries of Central Asia, to assist in their pursuit of sustainable development and poverty reduction and to facilitate closer regional cooperation both within Central Asia and between Central Asia and the EU. In order to achieve these core objectives, this regional strategy paper has identified regional cooperation within Central Asia as one of three priorities, as well as good neighbourhood relations between Central Asian Countries, which includes environmental issues.

## 1.2. - Identified needs :

**Central Asia** is permanently threatened by potential small to large-scale disasters, natural and man-made. The region also regularly experiences epidemic outbreaks of infectious diseases, sometimes triggered by natural disasters. Risk is exacerbated by poor national coping capacity and a near absence of co-ordination mechanisms, analysis and preventative measures. Drought is also a potential hazard. One after the other, disasters erode capacities and threaten the livelihoods of the population.

Relations between Central Asian countries have not always been easy, limiting the scope of regional disaster preparedness plans, exercises and programmes. The first Regional consultative meeting has allowed some progress to be made in reinforcing collaboration between the Central Asia countries in the field of DRR. Moreover, a regional platform for addressing disaster preparedness is being set up with the support of the UN/ISDR which benefits from the financial support coming from the European Commission (DIPECHO programme).

**Tajikistan** is located in a zone of tectonic interaction between three major mountain chains – the Pamirs, the Hindukush and the southern Tian Shan. Combined with its poverty and poor disaster coping mechanisms, Tajikistan is one of the Central Asian countries most vulnerable to natural disasters. The most frequent hazards are floods, earthquakes, avalanches, land- and mudslides. The country is also prone to drought, particularly in Khatlon where some 3,000,000 people were affected by drought in 2000<sup>22</sup>. Floods are becoming increasingly devastating in terms of lives lost and damage to livelihoods, particularly in mountainous areas where flash flooding is a common occurrence in the upper reaches of some valleys. The most frequent causes of localised damage are mud- and landslides, where over 170 dangerous

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<sup>20</sup> COM(2007)317

<sup>21</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/external\\_relations/ceeca/c\\_asia/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/ceeca/c_asia/index.htm)

<sup>22</sup> UNOCHA situation report-3, Tajikistan, 10 October 2000



sites have been identified. Although the government has adopted a resettlement policy for people exposed to such hazards, few families have moved. Earthquakes are also a substantial and ever-present threat to a high proportion of the population.

While risks and threats from exposure to natural disasters are shared in the border areas of Southern Tajikistan and **Northern Afghanistan**, very few measures have been undertaken to approach the issue multi-nationally, with the exception of the cross-border actions launched during the Fourth Dipecho Action Plan and which will be continued in this current action plan.

The greatest hazards faced by **Kyrgyzstan** are earthquakes. The Southern provinces which are considered to be the most vulnerable and disaster prone have also the highest poverty rates. Southern Kyrgyzstan shows vulnerabilities similar to those of Tajikistan. These areas are frequently affected by localised natural disasters, particularly flooding, land- and mudslides, and avalanches. Nevertheless, the Northern region which is also prone to earthquakes, floods, landslides and mudflows also needs to be supported in disaster preparedness. Furthermore, Kyrgyz communities are at risk of exposure to technological hazards from uranium tailing sites which could be displaced by landslides<sup>23</sup>.

**Uzbekistan** experiences significant seismic activity throughout much of the country, including large cities, like Tashkent, which has already been levelled once by an earthquake in 1966. The Ferghana province of Uzbekistan is also exposed to similar risks from natural and technological hazards as neighbouring Ferghana valley regions of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan<sup>24</sup>. Drought is a known hazard and regularly affects communities in the north and north-west of the country<sup>25</sup>, particularly around the Aral Sea area in Karakalpakstan, where continual irrigation for cotton production has provoked desertification, salinity and subsequent respiratory health problems<sup>26</sup>.

**Turkmenistan** is prone to natural disasters such as earthquake (56% of its territory is a seismic area), floods and mudflows and to man-made disasters triggered by chemical industry and water reservoir activities. At the community level, there is still a significant need for Disaster Risk Reduction awareness.

**Kazakhstan** appears to be a lower priority country for DIPECHO, due to higher economic levels and better coping capacities. However, Almaty has already been levelled by an earthquake once before and remains exposed to possible recurrences<sup>27</sup>. This country is also regularly affected by landslides and floods. Communities living around the Aral Sea area in Kazakhstan share similar problems to their Uzbekistan neighbours.

Within the last few years, thanks to the DIPECHO Programme in particular, the population's awareness about disaster preparedness has improved in the most vulnerable areas targeted. However, more work is needed to support national frameworks allowing the integration of disaster reduction measures into development policy and poverty alleviation schemes, to improve coordination mechanisms and to share lessons learnt regarding best practices.

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<sup>23</sup> There are 44 nuclear waste sites and 28 uranium dumps in Kyrgyzstan alone.

<sup>24</sup> UNEP/Grid-Arendal 'Environment and Security: Transforming risks into cooperation - Central Asia - Ferghana / Osh / Khujand area', 2005

<sup>25</sup> IFRC emergency drought operation in Uzbekistan, 12 February 2002

<sup>26</sup> Since the 1960's the Aral Sea has shrunk by some 60% in surface area and 80% in volume. UNEP/Grid-Arendal 'Vital Water Graphics – The Aral Sea: A shrinking regional resource', 2002

<sup>27</sup> Experts predict that, according to cyclical data, it is likely that Almaty will suffer another major quake in the next 10 to 15 years. (IRINnews.org, 30 November 2005)

While Central Asia has benefited from DIPECHO funding for more than 4 years, the total amount remains limited with regard to the needs of Disaster preparedness activities. This Action Plan envisages an increased budget. This will allow the expansion of Disaster Preparedness activities mainly in Kirgizstan and Turkmenistan, as well as at the regional level. The project's duration will last for up to 15 months. There is still a great need to advocate the integration of DRR into the national development strategy papers, poverty reduction programmes and local development plans.

Finally, some funds will have to be kept aside for maintaining a field office for programming and monitoring purposes. This will be very useful for grant agreements preparation, the monitoring and coordination of partners' activities, and for liaising with other donors and authorities active in the field of DRR. In addition to this, maintaining a permanent team of ECHO experts (national and international) in Central Asia will facilitate the evaluation of needs and the coordination of DG ECHO humanitarian aid in cases of emergency.

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

It is estimated that the Fifth DIPECHO Action Plan will target the most vulnerable local communities and their institutions, approximately 2 million beneficiaries throughout the region: 50% in Tajikistan, 20% in Kyrgyzstan, 15% in Uzbekistan, 10% in Turkmenistan and 5% through regional actions. This high number includes populations targeted through media awareness campaigns.

The following areas, considered to be amongst 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 a local level. The location of the possible DIPECHO interventions described below is only indicative and may be subject to change:

Tajikistan: District of Republican Subordination (RRS) including Dushanbe, Sughd, Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO), Khatlon.

Kyrgyzstan: Osh, Jalal-Abad, Batken, Issyk-Kul, Bishkek.

Uzbekistan: Andijan, Ferghana, Kashkadarya, Khorezm, Karakalpakstan, Namangan, Navoi, Syrdarya, Tashkent, with links maintained to other previously targeted provinces such as Bukhara, Samarkand, Surkhandarya.

Turkmenistan: Ashqabad and Turkmenbashi cities and provinces, Lebap, Balkan, Dashauz, Ahal, Mary

Kazakhstan: Almaty.

Afghanistan (cross-border pilot actions): Northern Badakhshan, Kunduz province (Imam Sahib district). As Afghanistan has been covered since 2007 by the DIPECHO Action Plan for South Asia, the DIPECHO Central Asia Action Plan will only cover cross-border initiatives being launched from Tajikistan, if relevant.

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

A major natural disaster, epidemic outbreak of infectious diseases or renewed conflict in the region might necessitate the diversion of resources to the delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance and/or the suspension of DIPECHO projects.

In addition to this, most of the countries covered by this Action Plan have experienced, since gaining independence, periodic outbreaks of violence, including inter-clan, inter-ethnic and inter-religious conflicts. Tajikistan was engulfed in a civil war from 1992 to 1997, which left severe scars on the country's economic and social fabric. In 2005, the Kyrgyz Republic underwent a change of government in the aftermath of prolonged popular uprising against the flawed results of earlier elections. The new government which has to face some internal crises could, in the future, lose control of both institutions and territory.

In Uzbekistan, the increasing tensions between the authorities and civil society and religious groups after the bloody intervention of security forces in Andijan (May 2005) has exacerbated existing discontent among many in the population. Unstable social and economic conditions, if not addressed, threaten to bring about widespread protests and to paralyse the incumbent regime.

Moreover, access of humanitarian organisations to Uzbekistan, particularly in the Ferghana Valley, and Turkmenistan are still limited and operations in these countries can expect difficulties.

Operations require a level of cooperation from local communities, local authorities and/or other international actors. Relations between Tajik, Uzbek and Kyrgyz authorities are particularly strained in the Ferghana Valley region, leading to frequent border closures.

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

### 2.1. - Objectives :

#### **Principal objective:**

To reduce the vulnerability of populations living in areas most affected by recurrent natural hazards.

#### **Specific objectives:**

- To support strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for, mitigate and respond adequately to natural disasters by enhancing their capacities to cope and respond, thereby increasing their resilience and reducing their vulnerability.
- To maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field, to assess needs, appraise project proposals and coordinate and monitor the implementation of disaster preparedness operations.

## 2.2. - Components :

DIPECHO will support the development of programme strategies in the context of existing relevant legislation and decrees and will contribute to existing/planned National Disaster Risk Reduction Plans and Policies, including the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. They will also be implemented in conjunction with the appropriate institutions of national governments at all relevant levels (local, sub-national, national).

Within the projects to be supported, DG ECHO will pay particular attention to the following themes adapted to the context of this Action Plan:

- ***Facilitation of co-ordination and reinforcement of national and regional platforms*** by supporting initiatives which facilitate co-ordination among national and regional authorities as well as public institutions working on Disaster Risk Reduction and will link them to national and regional level planning activities.
- ***Advocacy of Public-Private partnership***: which will be composed of support initiatives to facilitate the participation of the private sector in disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities.
- ***Cross-cutting issues***: involvement of women, children, vulnerable groups such as disabled, ethnic minorities; environmental protection etc.

### **Sectors and Sub-Sectors:**

- a) **Local disaster management components**, targeting local actors in disaster prone areas: **early warning systems, mapping and data computerisation, local capacity-building, training.**

Examples of possible eligible activities:

- Development and setting up of early warning systems through local structures, adapting or developing user-friendly and locally-appropriate systems; training of the beneficiaries through simulation exercises, mock drills, dry-run rehearsals etc.
- Mapping and data computerisation through local actors, linked with the study of hazards and vulnerabilities and the establishment of emergency plans.
- Capacity building and training of natural disaster management committees (including preparedness and response) at the local level, with direct involvement of the beneficiary communities; development and management of community disaster preparedness action plans; integration of such measures into economic plans at the proper administrative level; simulation and evacuation exercises; training of trainers, community facilitators, fire brigades and other response groups.

- b) **Institutional linkages and advocacy**, targeting institutions involved in disaster management/ disaster risk reduction, in particular at regional, national and sub-national levels: **advocacy, facilitation of coordination, institutional strengthening**

Examples of possible eligible activities:

- Communication activities aimed at raising awareness on DRR;
- Coordinated and collaborative national programming for disaster risk reduction, particularly amongst DRR fora.
- Joint strategy formulation and programming, through joint project proposals, establishment of common indicators and measurement systems, joint identification of categories of beneficiaries, joint events and activities.
- Technical studies, workshops and surveys to increase knowledge about preparedness issues and dissemination of results.
- Facilitating co-ordination; support of existing networks, institutions working on DRR and notably disaster preparedness and response
- Strengthening of institutional capacities on DRR; training of decision-makers on the HFA;
- Supporting the establishment of regional centres or regional platform active in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction
- Advocating the development of public private partnership in the field of communication, insurance and other relevant sectors

c) **Information, Education, Communication**, targeting direct and indirect beneficiaries: **awareness raising among the general public, education**

Examples of possible eligible activities:

- Radio spots, radio communication actions at various levels; TV broadcasts; media interaction with newspapers, journals, magazines; training of journalists and media students.
- Production of joint innovative Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials; further dissemination of good pre-existing IEC materials.
- Conferences, symposia, seminars, workshops, peer-to-peer awareness initiatives.
- Awareness campaigns among the general public as well as targeted groups, simulation exercises and mock drills.
- Activities aimed at creating a “culture of prevention” within the formal education system pursuing a change of attitude and practice; design, production or update of training materials for pupils; dissemination of good existing materials; training of teachers and pupils; simulations conducted at school level, school competitions.

d) **Small scale infrastructure and services**, at community level: **infrastructure support and mitigation works, operation and maintenance systems; non structural mitigation activities**

Examples of possible eligible activities:

- Provision of equipment and reinforcement of infrastructure to support disaster preparedness plans; scientific equipment; rehabilitation of evacuation routes; refurbishment of health posts; temporary shelter for evacuated populations and sign-posting of evacuation routes.
- Small-scale infrastructure works aimed at reducing the physical vulnerability of the beneficiaries, complementing the preparedness component of project strategy; training on operation and maintenance systems; provision of knowledge and tools for replication of measures in neighbouring communities or for integration into local development plans.

- Protection walls along river banks; structural works on existing public buildings to increase their resistance to disasters; identification and reinforcement of safe places; reforestation/plantation; small-scale drainage; and irrigation works.
  - Non structural mitigation measures.
- e) **Stock building of emergency and relief items: targeting the reinforcement of the response capacity of local actors and institutions in disaster-prone areas in view of contributing to ensuring an adequate response to natural disaster by strengthening the response capacity in the early hours and days of a disaster.**

Examples of possible eligible activities:

- Provision of basic equipment such as rescue kits and first aid kits complemented by training activities
- Stockpiling of response items at local level through mandated actors or entities and through well established systems

### **Technical assistance activities**

This will consist of financing the activities of the DG ECHO office in Dushanbe (local staff and running costs), which will concern proposal assessment, grant agreements preparation, project monitoring, reporting, DIPECHO partner coordination in the field, liaison between projects and DG ECHO in Brussels, DG ECHO representation in Central Asia and, if necessary, assessment of humanitarian aid needs and coordination of DG ECHO interventions in the event of a disaster.

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

The duration for the implementation of this Decision shall be **18** months. Humanitarian operations funded by this Decision must be implemented within this period.

The 18 month duration is requested due to the nature of the proposed activities which require a substantial investment in processes and systems. Moreover, partners are encouraged to develop medium term strategies for disaster risk reduction to which DIPECHO can contribute through focused or phased actions.

Expenditures under this Decision shall be eligible from 1 July 2008.

**Start Date:** 1 July 2008.

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

Donors in <b>Kazakhstan/Kyrgystan/Tajikistan/Turkmenistan/Uzbekistan</b> 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					
Denmark					
Estonia					
Finland					
France	85,000				
Germany	3,050,892				
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland	50,000				
Italy					
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg	81,600				
Malta					
Netherlands					
Poland					
Portugal					
Romania					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain					
Sweden	1,119,962				
United kingdom					
Subtotal	4,387,454	Subtotal	0	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	4,387,454		

Dated : 06 November 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.



### **5.1. Coordination with other Commission departments:**

Coordination on DRR and in particular on Disaster Preparedness issues has been an ongoing process with DG RELEX (Directorate General External Relations) and DG AIDCO (EuropeAid Cooperation Office). Similar efforts have been made with DG DEV (Development). 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 (EC).

On a general level, regular contact is maintained at field level between DIPECHO and the EC Delegations in order to maximize linkages between programmes. At headquarters level, the same effort is made in terms of information sharing to better link DIPECHO-interventions with the potential mainstreaming of DRR components in the sustainable development programming of DG RELEX and DG AIDCO.

DG ECHO has systematically been stressing the importance of including DRR as a cross-cutting issue in the Central Asia regional strategy paper covering the period 2007-2013 and will further explore with DG RELEX and DG AIDCO the possibility of incorporating natural disaster risk management components in future programmes supported under the MIPs (Multi-annual Indicative Programme).

In 2007, the dialogue between the DG ECHO office in Central Asia and the Delegations of the European Commission and European Union Member States' representations most active in DRR has continued and has contributed to the preparation of the first regional consultative meeting on DRR. This subject has also been taken into account as a cross cutting issue when preparing calls for proposals organised in the field of poverty alleviation by EC Delegations.

Tools and recommendations for DRR integration into programming are being shared on a regular basis with other EC services. This dialogue will continue and expand. The publication of an EC Communication on DRR should facilitate the promotion of the DRR agenda within the Commission's services.

### **5.2. - Member States:**

The information provided by the Humanitarian Aid Committee (HAC) members in the framework of the preparation of this current action plan indicates that the German government finances a disaster prevention programme in Tajikistan implemented by the Deutsche Welthungerhilfe.

### **5.3. – Other Donors:**

Close coordination is maintained with key donors and agencies involved in DRR both at the national and regional levels such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency and JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency).

## **6 - Amount of decision and distribution by specific objectives:**

6.1. - Total amount of the decision: EUR 7,325,000

## 6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

<b>Principal objective:</b> To reduce the vulnerability of populations living in areas most affected by recurrent natural hazards				
<b>Specific objectives</b>	<b>Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)</b>	<b>Geographical area of operation</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Potential partners<sup>28</sup></b>
<p>Specific objective 1: To support strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for, mitigate and respond adequately to natural disasters by enhancing their capacities to cope and respond, thereby increasing their resilience and reducing their vulnerability.</p>	6,950,000	<p>Tajikistan including cross-border initiatives with Afghanistan</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan</p> <p>Uzbekistan</p> <p>Turkmenistan</p> <p>Kazakhstan</p>	<p>Local disaster management components Institutional linkages and advocacy Information, education, communication.</p> <p>Small scale infrastructure and services.</p> <p>Stocks building of emergency and relief items</p>	<p>- ACTED</p> <p>- AKF(UK)</p> <p>- CARITAS</p> <p>- CARE NL</p> <p>- FAO</p> <p>- FCL</p> <p>- CHRISTIAN AID - UK</p> <p>- CR - NLD</p> <p>- GERMAN AGRO ACTION</p> <p>- Handicap International France</p> <p>- HWA</p> <p>- IOM</p> <p>- MISSION OST - DNK</p> <p>- OCHA</p> <p>- OXFAM GB</p> <p>- SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND</p> <p>- UNDP-PNUD</p> <p>- UNICEF</p> <p>- WHO</p>
<p>Specific objective 2: to maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field, to assess needs, appraise project proposals and to coordinate and monitor the implementation of disaster preparedness operations</p>	375,000	Dushanbe in Tajikistan	<p>- Needs assessing</p> <p>- Proposals evaluation</p> <p>- Projects monitoring</p> <p>- Liaising with the key stakeholders of DRR</p> <p>- DRR Advocacy</p>	DG ECHO office
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>7,325,000</b>			

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AGA KHAN FOUNDATION (United Kingdom), AGENCE D'AIDE A LA COOPERATION TECHNIQUE ET AU DEVELOPPEMENT, (FR), CHRISTIAN AID (GBR), DEUTSCHE WELTHUNGERHILFE / GERMAN AGRO ACTION, (DEU), FONDATION CARITAS LUXEMBOURG, HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL (FR), HET NEDERLANDSE RODE KRUIS (NLD), HILFSWERK AUSTRIA, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (INT), MISSION OST, OXFAM (GB), Stichting CARE Nederland, THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND (GBR), UNICEF, UNITED NATIONS - FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, UNITED NATIONS, OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION - ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE

## 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 03

-	CE (EUR)
Initial Available Appropriations for 2008	32,325,000
Supplementary Budgets	
Transfers	
<b>Total Available Credits</b>	32,325,000
Total executed to date (by 01/01/2008)	0
Available remaining	32,325,000
<b>Total amount of the Decision</b>	7,325,000

### Estimated payments schedule:

2008	2009	2010	TOTAL
EUR 4,500,000	EUR 1,400,000	EUR 1,425,000	EUR 7,325,000

## 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](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.