



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels,
C(2008)

COMMISSION DECISION

of [...]

on the financing of emergency humanitarian actions from the general budget of the European Communities to provide short-term food and livelihood support for vulnerable populations in humanitarian crises in the HORN OF AFRICA, and amending decision C/2008/5648 (ECHO/-FA/BUD/2008/03000)

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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 and 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Decision C/2008/5648 (ECHO/-FA/BUD/2008/03000), adopted on 30 September 2008 provides EUR 15,000,000 for humanitarian aid operations to contribute to improving and safeguarding the nutritional status of vulnerable people suffering from humanitarian crises by using budget line 23 02 02 of the 2008 general budget of the European Communities.
- (2) DG ECHO² should be able to respond to the increasing needs in the Horn of Africa, where continuing drought conditions, worsening food price inflation, high rates of population movement, and major resource shortages risk exacerbating an already disastrous situation.
- (3) It is therefore proposed that a sum of EUR 25,600,000 in additional funds be allocated from the Food Aid Budget line 23 02 02 to the Decision's single specific objective, so as to meet the principal objective of the Decision in the best possible way, that is, to safeguard the availability of food, and access to food, for vulnerable populations affected by drought and elevated food prices.
- (4) The present Decision constitutes a financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002³, Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by

¹ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p.1.

² Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid - ECHO

³ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002⁴, and Article 15 of the Internal Rules on the Implementation of the general budget of the European Communities⁵

- (5) In accordance with Article 17(3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid, the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave a favourable opinion on 7 November 2008,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves an additional amount of EUR 25,600,000 from the Food Aid Budget line 23 02 02 of the general budget of the European Communities, to finance emergency humanitarian actions to provide short-term food and livelihood support for vulnerable populations in humanitarian crises in the Horn of Africa.

Article 2

The text in Article 1.1 of Decision C/2008/5648 is replaced by the following text:

"In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of EUR 40,600,000 for emergency humanitarian aid actions to safeguard the availability of food, and access to food, for vulnerable populations affected by drought and elevated food prices by using line 23 02 02 of the 2008 general budget of the European Communities."

Article 3

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

Done at Brussels, [...]

For the Commission

[...]

Member of the Commission

⁴ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, , p.1

⁵ Commission Decision of 5/03/2008, C/2008/773



Decision amending humanitarian Aid Decision C/2008/5648

Article 23 02 02

<u>Title:</u>	Emergency Decision to assist vulnerable populations in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Somalia in dealing with the effects of extreme drought cycles and elevated food prices.
<u>Location of operation:</u>	HORN OF AFRICA (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Somalia)
<u>Amount of Decision:</u>	EUR 40,600,000
<u>Decision reference number</u>	ECHO/-FA/BUD/2008/03000

Supplementary Technical Information

1. - Grounds for amendment.

Since the drafting of the original Decision in July 2008, the humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa has further deteriorated, with an increase in the number of people requiring emergency food assistance, continuing food price inflation from one month to the next, elevated and sustained rates of population movements from the worst affected areas, and a climatic forecast that is unlikely to bring any immediate relief to most of the affected area. This deteriorating situation is especially antagonised by persistent and dramatic funding gaps faced by most humanitarian organisations, rendering the funds allocated in the original emergency Decision insufficient against the worsening needs.

In Ethiopia, where originally 4,600,000 people were judged to be in need of emergency food support, latest assessments have revealed an additional 1,800,000 people facing acute food-insecurity, bringing the total humanitarian caseload to 6,400,000¹. In Kenya, the number of people in need of emergency food assistance has increased from 1,200,000 to 1,400,000, while in Djibouti, the World Food Programme's operations are being scaled up to reach 150,000 beneficiaries, compared to the previously assessed caseload of 135,000². In north-eastern Uganda, 750,000 people now require emergency food assistance (compared to 700,000 previously)³, and in Somalia, an estimated population of 3,300,000, or 40% of the total population, are now confirmed to be in critical need⁴. This brings the total emergency

¹ Government of Ethiopia, "Revised Humanitarian Requirements Document", 14 October 2008. This 6,400,000 is in addition to a further 5,700,000 in critical need receiving assistance through the Ethiopian Productive Safety Net Programme.

² World Food Programme "Regional Alert – Horn of Africa Crisis" 12 September 2008

³ FEWSNET "Uganda Food Security Update" August 2008

⁴ FAO Food Security Analysis Unit for Somalia (FSAU) August 26, 2008

caseload in the Horn of Africa to at least 12,000,000, compared to the estimated 10,000,000 in July, a net increase of 2,000,000 people.

At the same time, high food prices across the region continue to exacerbate the population's vulnerability and undermine their coping capacity. Localised prices for many staple commodities in most markets in the region showed continued increases between August and September, ranging from 10% to 47%⁵.

In Somalia, the combination of drought, conflict and food-price inflation has not only led to plummeting levels of food-insecurity, but has also prompted the most vulnerable populations to move in search of security and assistance. In addition to the estimated 870,000 Internally Displaced Persons uprooted from their homes since March 2007, the flow of Somali refugees into Kenya has significantly increased in recent months, maintaining an average of 4,500 new arrivals per month from January to August 2008, compared to an average of 1,450 per month for the previous 8-month period⁶. Drought and hardship are also prompting spontaneous informal population movements across the region, as vulnerable households go in search of the means to survive.

Although seasonal short rains have started in some parts of the region, in the worst affected arid areas, prospects are still uncertain. The Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook for September-December 2008 states that "eastern and northern Kenya, southern and north-western Somalia; much of Djibouti; eastern and southern Ethiopia and north-western Uganda have a high likelihood of near to below normal rainfall". In any areas that suffers below-normal rainfall, there is a risk that drought conditions could persist, and the humanitarian situation can be expected to deteriorate further. Even if rains commence at a near normal rate, "more rainfall is needed for recovery"⁷. Indeed, any recovery from the cumulative impact of successive droughts in the region will take time, and will require urgent assistance in its own right.

Relief agencies are suffering a serious funding shortfall against the increasing needs. Across all sectors, an estimated EUR 526,000,000 is still needed between now and the end of the year to cover the required response⁸. For food aid, WFP is facing a resource gap of EUR 446,000,000 between now and April 2009⁹, when the next harvest and recovery from the short-rains can be expected.

To meet the immediate and urgent food needs of the increased caseload of people affected by drought, conflict, high food prices and population movement in the Horn of Africa; since vulnerability appears to be increasing, with minimal or uncertain prospects for short-term recovery; and since international funding of the response (including DG ECHO's original allocation under this Decision) remains far below what is needed, additional resources are urgently required to boost the European Commission's humanitarian food assistance response in the region.

⁵ FEWSNET "Price Watch" September 2008

⁶ UNHCR Kenya "Statistics At A Glance" September 2008

⁷ FEWSNET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa, October 2-8, 2008.

⁸ UNOCHA Press Conference 19 Sept 2008

⁹ WFP Donor Bulletin – September 2008

2. - Proposed amendment.

It is proposed that additional funds of EUR 25,600,000 be used to reinforce the Specific Objective 1 of the current Emergency Decision for Food Aid in the Horn of Africa. Sections 1.3 ("Target Populations and Regions Concerned") and 6 ("Amount of Decision and distribution by specific objectives") of the Decision's Explanatory Memorandum, providing a breakdown of target populations and funding by specific objective, have been updated and inserted below.

ANNEX:

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

The beneficiaries of this Decision include drought-affected, internally displaced, refugees and vulnerable resident populations, who are in need of food assistance, nutritional therapy and short-term livelihood support. Special emphasis will be put on operations targeting children, notably under-five years old, and mothers.

It is now estimated that about **12,000,000 people** are affected by this crisis in the region, and require emergency food assistance in the coming months:

- i) Djibouti: 150,000 facing acute food shortages
- ii) Ethiopia: 6,400,000 needing emergency food, nutrition and livelihood support
- iii) Kenya: 1,400,000 drought-affected needing urgent food and nutrition assistance, plus 65,000 recently arrived or anticipated refugees fleeing drought, food-insecurity and conflict in Somalia.
- iv) Uganda: 750,000 in dire need of food
- v) Somalia: 3,300,000 currently or potentially in need of food aid

6 - Amount of Decision and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1. - Total amount of the Decision: EUR 40,600,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: To safeguard the availability of food, and access to food, for vulnerable populations affected by drought and elevated food prices.				
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Activities	Potential partners¹⁰
<p>Specific objective 1:</p> <p>To provide appropriate and adequate humanitarian food aid and other forms of emergency food assistance (including nutritional support and short-term food security and livelihood support) in the Horn of Africa</p>	40,600,000	Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and Somalia.	<p>Distribution of food aid and other means of food-related support (e.g. non-food transfers) to vulnerable groups, including displaced populations and refugees.</p> <p>Nutritional rehabilitation. Prevention and treatment of moderate and severe acute malnutrition. Nutritional surveillance.</p> <p>Support to employment generation with compensation in food and non food transfers (e.g. food for work).</p> <p>Distribution of seeds, tools and agricultural inputs.</p> <p>Emergency support for livestock production, veterinary health, and herd protection.</p> <p>Emergency support for protecting, strengthening or recovering other vulnerable livelihoods.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ACF - CARE-UK - Concern - FAO - GOAL (IRL) - MSF BE - MSF CH - MSF ES - MSF NL - Save the Children UK - UNICEF - WFP-PAM - World Vision (UK)
TOTAL:40,600,000				

¹ ACTION CONTRA LA FAIM FRANCE, CARE-UK, CONCERN WORLDWIDE IRELAND, UNITED NATIONS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION, GOAL (IRL), MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES BELGIUM, MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES SWITZERLAND, MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES SPAIN, MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES / ARTSEN ZONDER GRENZEN THE NETHERLANDS, THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND UK, UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN FUND, UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME, WORLD VISION UK

