

COMMISSION DECISION

of [...]

on the financing of humanitarian aid from the general budget of the European Communities in Iraq and the occupied Palestinian territory (ECHO/-FA/BUD/2008/05000)

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 ¹, and in particular Article 2 and Article 15(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- The international food prices crisis has exacerbated the effects of ongoing humanitarian crises, notably on refugees, displaced persons and other parts of the population directly affected by conflict or natural disasters;
- In the Middle East, the increase in food aid needs affects refugees, internally displaced persons as well as vulnerable local populations who are victims of the political crises in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and in Iraq;
- The occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) is facing a continuous deterioration of the political, economic and social situation, further compounded in 2008 by the increase of food as well as of fuel and transportation costs;
- Unremitting violence in Iraq has led to continued mass internal displacement affecting the whole country; a significant proportion of internally displaced persons has run out of resources, leaving them and their host communities increasingly vulnerable;
- The last winter recorded extremely low rainfall in North Iraq, leading to a drought in the region with a reported harvest reduction from 30 to 80% depending on the affected areas.
- To reach populations in need, humanitarian aid may be channelled through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), International Organisations or United Nations (UN) agencies. Therefore the European Commission may implement the budget by direct centralized management or by joint management;
- An assessment of the humanitarian situation leads to the conclusion that humanitarian aid actions should be financed by the Community for a period of 12 months;
- It is estimated that an amount of EUR 12,400,000 from budget line 23 02 02 of the general budget of the European Communities is necessary to provide humanitarian

¹ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

assistance to over 1,900,000 extremely vulnerable people in the occupied Palestinian territory and Iraq, taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions and other factors. Therefore the activities covered by this Decision may be financed in full in accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation;

- 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.
- In accordance with Article 17 (3) of Regulation (EC) No.1257/96, the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave a favourable opinion on 14 November 2008.

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 12,400,000 for short-term food and livelihood support to vulnerable populations in the occupied Palestinian territory and in Iraq, by using line 23 02 02 of the 2008 general budget of the European Communities.
2. In accordance with Articles 2 and 4 of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the humanitarian actions shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objectives:
 - To deliver appropriate and adequate food aid, short-term food-security support, nutritional support or short-term livelihood support to crisis-affected populations in the occupied Palestinian territory. An amount of EUR 7,400,000 is allocated to this specific objective.
 - To deliver appropriate and adequate food aid, short-term food-security support, nutritional support or short-term livelihood support to crisis-affected populations in Iraq. An amount of EUR 5,000,000 is allocated to this specific objective.

Article 2

The Commission may, where this is justified by the humanitarian situation, re-allocate the funding levels established for one of the specific objectives set out in Article 1(2) to another objective mentioned therein, provided that the re-allocated amount represents less than 20% of the global amount covered by this Decision and does not exceed EUR 2,000,000.

Article 3

1. The duration for the implementation of this Decision shall be for a maximum period of 12 months, starting on 1 October 2008.

² OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1., p. 9.

³ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1.

⁴ Commission Decision of 5.3.2008, C/2008/773

2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 1 October 2008.
3. If the actions 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 4

1. The Commission shall implement the budget by direct centralised management or by joint management with international organisations.

Actions supported by this Decision will be implemented either by non-profit-making organisations which fulfil the eligibility and suitability criteria established in Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1257/96 or by International Organisations.

2. 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 5

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

Done at Brussels, [...]

For the Commission

[...]

Member of the Commission



Humanitarian Aid Decision

23 02 02

Title: Short-term food and livelihood support for vulnerable populations in Iraq and the occupied Palestinian territory

Location of action: Occupied Palestinian territory and Iraq

Amount of Decision: EUR 12,400,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/-FA/BUD/2008/05000

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population.

1.1. - Rationale :

Following the reorganization of the external aid budget in the financial perspectives for 2007–2013 for the European Commission⁵, humanitarian food aid is now an integral part of the humanitarian activities managed by DG ECHO⁶. Two Decisions were adopted in 2007, totalling EUR 220,222,101. In 2008, the initial budget for 2008 was gradually reinforced to respond adequately to humanitarian challenges emerging from the worldwide drastic increase in food-commodity, fuel and transportation prices. So far, five Food Aid Decisions⁷ have been adopted to-date for a total of EUR 293,251,000.

In the targeted countries, the needs covered by this Food Aid Decision complement the needs covered in the other Food Aid Decisions previously adopted and in the process of being implemented. This Decision notably casts for the additional food assistance needs that have emerged as a consequence of the food price increases.

⁵ (COM(2004)101) which has established the principle of “one instrument per policy area” in order to improve the efficiency of Community action; (COM(2004)487) on the financial perspectives 2007-2013

⁶ Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid - ECHO

⁷ Following several budget reinforcements, DG ECHO food aid appropriation currently stands at EUR 323,251,000. The five Food Aid Decisions in 2008 include so far: a modification of the 1st food aid decision (from EUR 160,000,000 to EUR 220,000,000); a Food Aid Decision of EUR 57,251,000; an emergency decision for the Horn of Africa of EUR 15,000,000; an emergency Decision for Bangladesh of EUR 4,000,000; an emergency Decision for Nepal of EUR 1,000,000.

In addition, DG ECHO continues to provide "non-food" and multi-sector humanitarian assistance through ad hoc or other country-focused Decisions. Grant agreements linked to the Food Aid Decisions are concluded on a country basis, and are managed through the respective geographical programmes, thereby ensuring harmony and coherence between the food-assistance sector and other sectors of broader humanitarian assistance.

This Decision, and the assistance strategies within it, has been designed in conjunction with the respective country strategies and global plans for 2008 for the occupied Palestinian territory and the Iraq crisis.

The **occupied Palestinian territory** (oPt) has continued to face a deterioration of the political, economic and social situation, further compounded in 2008 by the food price crisis. With the current political impasse, the civilian population is confronted with a deterioration of their food security and livelihood situation. Two households out of five live in extreme poverty in **the Gaza strip**, and one out of five in the **West Bank** territories. International drastic price increases of food, fuel and transportation, further compounded by imposed limitations on the free circulation of goods between Israel and the Palestinian territories have added negatively on the livelihood situation of the most vulnerable households in the territories.

In the first part of the year, DG ECHO sustained⁸ its food support equally in the Gaza strip and the West Bank through UNRWA⁹, WFP¹⁰ and with smaller scale food and non-food relief distributions and livelihood support conducted by non-governmental organisations. It intends to assist over a million extremely food insecure individuals out of a recently revised estimation of two million food-insecure Palestinians¹¹.

With the remaining volatile political and bleak economic situation in the oPt, further support is required to notably address the winter needs of the vulnerable populations.

In **Iraq**, civilians continue to bear the brunt of the ongoing internal armed conflict in terms of casualties, lost livelihoods, and large-scale population displacement in Iraq and to neighboring countries.

The persistent sectarian violence, particularly in mixed Shia-Sunni urban areas, has forced the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, sharpening the division of the country along ethnic and confessional lines. Many families flee empty-handed, leaving all their belongings behind. The majority of internally displaced persons (IDPs) resettle within host communities (95%); only a marginal part settle in rented accommodation, abandoned public buildings or deserted military barracks; and only a very few in camps. However, as the financial capacities of IDPs diminish, people tend to move out of their accommodation and swell the population of the camps.

Despite an overall improvement of the security in Iraq, mainly in the South and Central parts, there has not been so far a massive return of IDPs to their place of origin. The main reasons for their reluctance to return are previous ethnically mixed neighborhoods currently divided along sectarian lines, lack of economic opportunities, rampant criminality, lack of faith in the sustainability of the improved security and homes being squatted by other families. Unemployment and poverty levels are high, and much of the population remains reliant on government food distributions to cover daily needs. The Public Distribution System (PDS) is

⁸ In 2007, DG ECHO allocated a total of EUR 23,300,000 for food aid and livelihood support out of a total of EUR 60,000,000 of multi-sectoral humanitarian support (health, watsan, shelter, job creation, psychosocial support). DG ECHO intends to sustain the same level of support in 2008 with the same flexible approach adapted to the operational realities.

⁹ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestinian refugees.

¹⁰ World Food programme.

¹¹ 2007 United Nations Consolidated appeal for WBGs, with USD 150,000,000 needed for food aid alone.

also struggling to adapt to the reality of the displacement. IDPs are having difficulties accessing their ration to their new place of residence due to administrative issues related to the transfer of the PDS registration rights. It can take several months for newly displaced IDPs to get their PDS card transferred.

In addition, the last winter recorded extremely low rainfall in North Iraq, leading to a **drought** in the region with degradation of water sources, both surface and underground. Rain-fed agriculture in the rural areas has been heavily hit because many villages have seen their sources of drinking water disappear completely. The impact of the drought has been greatest in areas where the population fully relies on water springs as they have been left with no alternative sources of water. The water level has gone down significantly mainly due to less snowfall in highlands and drying up of springs feeding rivers and canals. In the southern regions of the North, irrigation projects from rivers and the existence of deep wells allowed the local population to better cope with the low rainfall. Nevertheless, the level of the water table has been lowered by 10m or more, and consequently many deep-wells have become dry.

In Erbil, up to 1 February 2008, recorded rainfall was 56.7mm compared to 180.1 mm last year. In Dohuk, according to the Water Department, the water level in deep well has decreased for more than 15m. The areas around Kirkuk are the driest ones in the whole of Northern Iraq with low level of rainfall estimated at 110 mm in the 2007/08 season, compared to the mean average of 350 mm in normal years. In the areas where the water level in the rivers has gone down significantly, the shallow wells dug along dry rivers become salted with a very low yield, rendering impossible the use for human and animals' consumption.

1.2. - Identified needs :

The occupied Palestinian territory

In the **Gaza strip**, since the closure of the cross-border points with Israel in June 2007 only basic commodities such as flour, fresh dairy products, sugar, detergents and medical supplies have been allowed to enter the Gaza Strip. Exports have been banned. This causes severe disruptions to the daily lives of Palestinians.

The **West Bank** remains affected by access problems compounded both by the further fragmentation of the territories (internal closure) and the isolation (external closure) between the West Bank and Israel. This has undoubtedly a major impact on the Palestinian population, isolating communities and separating tens of thousands of people from services, lands and livelihoods. Significant domestic food production is only limited to a few commodities (mainly olive oil, poultry products, milk/dairy, tubers, and vegetables) whereas in terms of food energy most of the calories come from external (imported) sources.

In **the whole occupied Palestinian territory**, most staple food commodities (cereals, pulses and red meat) are imported through Israel. In the Gaza Strip, availability of staple food remains a humanitarian concern. Since January 2008, intermittent imports have strained the stocks of wheat, fresh and frozen meat as well as dairy products, which are regularly unavailable or in shortage. In the West Bank, local food production has become rudimentary, arising from the extreme year-to-year variation in the production of plant products, which are mainly rain-fed and the lack of import possibility for agricultural inputs. This leads to considerable instability in food supplies.

This reliance on imports has been compounded this year by a frost¹², a drought¹³ and the soaring of food prices. According to estimates, 70 to 100% open fields, especially in the Jordan Valley, have been either lost or substantially damaged. Livestock herders were also affected as the frost resulted in very high lamb mortality. Market prices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have reached record digits during 2007 and 2008. The Food CPI increased substantially over the first half of 2008, up to 21% in April 2008 compared to one year ago¹⁴. For instance the price of wheat flour has increased by about 90%, white bread by 50% and chickpeas and olive oil by 20%. According to WFP, international market prices are the main inflationary factor to push wheat prices upwards, with prices doubling over the past 18 months.

Henceforth, economic access to food remains a central factor of the current humanitarian crisis, directly emanating from widespread loss of income of the Palestinian population and the closure policy imposed by Israel, resulting in an increased fragmentation of the territory. A large majority if not all the Palestinian vulnerable households are recurring to negative coping mechanisms ranging from debts to sell of productive assets¹⁵.

Iraq crisis

In **Iraq**, there are chronic patterns of food insecurity that are exacerbated by the conflict and the prevailing insecurity. The last large scale assessment of food security took place before the Samara bombing on February 2006, after which the insecurity rose sharply. At that time, it was assessed that over 15% of the general population were food insecure and a further 32% would be rendered food-insecure if the PDS was disrupted. Since then, the PDS has been frequently disrupted due to break downs in the pipeline for reasons of insecurity. As it could be expected, the poorer households with a high dependency on the PDS have been specifically affected, especially in rural areas. Intra-governorate IDPs are also identified as particularly vulnerable as they are often unable to access the PDS. According to a rapid assessment carried out in April 2007¹⁶, 47% of the IDPs were unable to access the PDS in their places of displacement. International Organization for Migration (IOM) also assessed¹⁷ that only 22% of the IDPs had regular access to the PDS.

The most affected villages are found in southern Erbil Governorate¹⁸. Shortage of water has affected farms of wheat and barley to a highest extent. In some places, villagers are expected to have a harvest of only 20%. Farmers in Jezeera and Garmian areas, people depend mainly on agriculture production and livestock breeding to sustain their livelihoods. The major part of cereals are produced under rain-fed agriculture, however, this year, the yield of rain-fed

¹² Farmers, especially in the West Bank, were hit by a severe frost that lasted for several days last January.

¹³ From November until the end of February, the critical season for growing crops and grazing land regeneration, the southern West Bank had only 55% of its average rainfall (328 mm compared to annual average of 595)

¹⁴ The Food CPI recorded the highest increase among all main groups of expenditure over the past year (no significant differences in prices between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip). At the same time, the overall Consumer Price Index (CPI) has gone up from 110 in July 2007 to 122 in December 2007 to 135-142 in April 2008.

¹⁵ According to WFP May's assessment, 10.2% of households have reduced the number of meals and 16.7% have reduced the size of meals. 53% resorted to purchasing lower-quality / lower-value foods, e.g. substituting fresh food with canned food, fresh meat with frozen meat. Both refugee and non-refugee households (esp. in the GS) sought registering to local charitable organizations and NGOs to benefit from assistance. Some households began making processed food at home while they were purchasing them in the past (esp. bread, white cheese and yoghurt). Other coping strategies include personal debt to friends, relative and local shop owners. 23% of households have taken up a loan to respond to the crisis. Besides, the majority of households visited had not paid their water and electricity bills for many months; 31.8% of households rely on this strategy but 48% acknowledged they have already exhausted this possibility. Jewellery and other financial assets have been sold long time ago. Some households reported starting selling durable goods such as television and radio to secure cash.

¹⁶ Inter Agency Food Sub-Group, "Assessment of IDPs in Iraq, WFP/Food sub- group, April 2007"

¹⁷ 2007 Iraq displacement-A year in review; IOM

¹⁸ Especially in the area called Dashty Koya (plain of Koya), Akra and Zakho in Dohuk, part of Jeezira and most of Garmian area. In Suleymanieh and part of Kirkuk, Garmian area has been hit by the drought more than any other places in Kurdistan region. Affected districts include Kalar, Chamachamal, Kirkuk and Daquuk in Kirkuk Governorate, western part of Darbandikan, Sangaw and Kifri.

wheat has decreased by 80% compared to the last year. The drought has also affected other areas such as Khanaqin in Diyala governorate, with a reported reduction of 30% in the wheat production due to the reduced water available in irrigation channels.

In the mountainous areas of Erbil and Dohuk, farmers have spent a lot of capital and efforts to re-cultivate fruit trees after 1991 mass uprising. Even though the water shortage has been less important than in the plains, fruit trees are subject to severe water stress that significantly will reduce shoot growth and yield in this season.

The impact of the drought in the mountainous regions in the north has been less dramatic, as there is still the presence of surface water, even if at drastically reduced levels.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

The beneficiaries of actions to be supported under this Decision include, amongst others: internally displaced persons; refugees; vulnerable populations facing acute food-insecurity and nutritional stress; malnourished children and mothers; populations identified as being at risk of drought; and populations whose livelihoods and related food-security have been affected by the crises in the oPt and in Iraq.

The estimated total number of beneficiaries to be assisted by expected humanitarian operations which this Food Aid Decision will contribute to, will be 1,900,000.

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints :

In the **oPt**, the security situation remains volatile despite improvements since the last June ceasefire. On-going difficult humanitarian access to the Gaza strip will remain expected.

In **Iraq**, the insecurity represents the biggest risk. While the situation in the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) areas can be considered safe, the insecurity in the central and southern part of the country results in very limited access and serious security risks, with daily serious security incidents (attacks on the Multi National Forces in Iraq, explosions targeting both military personnel and civilians, kidnappings, targeted assassinations, etc). Humanitarian actors face considerable security constraints that seriously affect their mobility and response capacity, frequently rendering their activities difficult and often impossible. However this situation improved notably these last months. The weekly number of security incidents all over Iraq has dropped to 200/300, down from more than 1,400 during the worst part of the conflict in June 2007.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. - Objectives :

Principal objective: To safeguard the availability of, and access to, food for vulnerable populations affected by the humanitarian crises in the oPt and in Iraq, and to stabilise or improve their nutritional status.

Specific objectives:

- To deliver appropriate and adequate food aid, short-term food-security support, nutritional support or short-term livelihood support to crisis-affected populations in the oPt.

- To deliver appropriate and adequate food aid, short-term food-security support, nutritional support or short-term livelihood support to crisis-affected populations in Iraq.

2.2. - Components :

To assist vulnerable populations according to the objectives of this Decision, DG ECHO supports projects that:

- Distribute full or partial free food rations, on a blanket or targeted basis, to individuals or households affected by natural disaster, drought, conflict, population movement or other crises. Attention will be paid to the appropriateness, quality and acceptability of food, as well as its micro-nutrient composition. Non-food transfers such as cash and vouchers that improve beneficiaries' access to food may be considered as an alternative or complement to food-aid, where appropriate.
- Support short-term employment generation and labour schemes, such as food-for-work programmes, that provide food, or the means to access food, in exchange for work tasks that can also contribute to the repair or the reinforcement of community assets and infrastructure in humanitarian or transitional contexts.
- Restore basic livelihoods, post crisis, and/or strengthen resilience to future shocks in crisis-prone contexts, by ensuring access to and availability of agricultural and livestock inputs and services, and other factors of production.

More specifically, this Decision will indicatively provide:

In the occupied Palestinian territories, a mixed food assistance response of food aid in kind, food and cash for work and cash-based (voucher) food assistance to Palestinian refugees and non-refugee vulnerable households. This assistance will notably aim at mitigating expected additional humanitarian needs in the coming winter up to next year spring.

In **Iraq** a mixed food assistance response of i) monthly provision of basic food packages to intra-governorate displaced households, as well as to IDP families living in camps and group settlements; ii) community-based livelihood projects to impoverished and destitute households so as to help them maintain or restore productive assets damaged or lost as a result of the conflict; iii) distribution of seeds and fertilizers in October to drought affected households before new planting season and monthly food assistance until the next harvest in April-May 2009.

2.3. – Operational Guiding Principles:

Many of these activities require partners to purchase and distribute in-kind food commodities. DG ECHO prefers its partners to prioritise local, and then regional procurement of food, before international purchase, so as to benefit local farmers in the region of intervention, to speed delivery, and to ensure acceptability of food-stuffs. Local procurement should only be done following detailed market surveys to ensure that quality food is available in sufficient quantities and at competitive prices, and that there will be no negative inflationary consequences or resultant supply shortages on local markets.

There is a growing recognition that some food and nutrition crises are often best mitigated through a variety of responses across a range of sectors, and not just through the provision of

food-assistance. To ensure the most appropriate and holistic response to any given food and nutrition crisis, DG ECHO supports non-food activities on a case by case basis, so long as they are integrated with the type of activities detailed above, and so long as they contribute to the principal objective of maintaining food-access and nutritional stability.

There is also a growing field of best practice that suggests that in certain food and nutrition crises humanitarian resource transfers can be appropriately delivered in other forms of than in-kind commodities, such as cash-based transfers or vouchers. DG ECHO recently conducted a global review of cash based projects that highlighted prerequisites and operational conditions under which such projects can be effective. When appropriate, this decision will consider support, within the limits of DG ECHO's mandate and regulations, to short-term cash-based interventions that increase access to food and promote nutritional stability in crises. Such funding allocation to cash-based projects or voucher schemes will be context-specific and will require a careful and thorough needs assessments and context analysis so as to maximize the positive effects of the assistance. However, since food and nutritional commodities still remain the dominant tools in the management of emergency food-insecurity and malnutrition, it is envisaged that a proportion of this Decision will be in support of in-kind food delivery.

3 - Duration expected for actions in the proposed Decision:

The duration for the implementation of this Decision shall be 12 months.
Humanitarian actions funded by this Decision must be implemented within this period.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 1 October 2008, in order to allow for the distribution of seeds and fertilisers in Iraq in October, before the planting season.

Start Date : 1 October 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 actions.

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 IRAQ/PALESTINIAN TERRITORY, OCCUPIED the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria	1,019,621	DG ECHO	63,860,000		
Belgium	4,699,975	DG AIDCO(**)			
Bulgaria					
Cyprus					
Czech republic	287,418				
Denmark	16,653,152				
Estonia					
Finland	2,500,000				
France	4,710,553				
Germany	7,806,757				
Greece	75,000				
Hungary					
Ireland	4,690,850				
Italy	4,693,000				
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg	1,254,985				
Malta					
Netherlands	16,401,869				
Poland	319,000				
Portugal					
Romania					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain	4,275,212				
Sweden	18,897,254				
United kingdom	19,000,000				
Subtotal	107,284,646	Subtotal	63,860,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	171,144,646		

Dated : 23 September 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.

(**) DG AIDCO will make available an additional € million by the end of the year for 'food and livelihood support for vulnerable populations in the occupied Palestinian territory'. € million was already committed. Another € million will be approved before the end of 2008.

6 - Amount of Decision and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1. - Total amount of the Decision: EUR 12,400,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: <i>To safeguard the availability of, and access to, food for vulnerable populations affected by the humanitarian crises in the oPt and in Iraq, and to stabilise or improve their nutritional status.</i>				
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Activities	Potential partners¹⁹
Specific objective 1: To deliver appropriate and adequate food aid, short-term food-security support, nutritional support or short-term livelihood support to crisis-affected populations in the oPt.	7,400,000	oPt	Mix food assistance to refugees and non-refugee vulnerable households	- UNRWA - WFP-PAM
Specific objective 2: To deliver appropriate and adequate food aid, short-term food-security support, nutritional support or short-term livelihood support to crisis-affected populations in Iraq.	5,000,000	Iraq	Mix food assistance to vulnerable households within intra-governorate displaced persons and inter-governorate IDPs leaving in camps.	- ICRC-CICR
TOTAL:	12,400,000			

¹⁹ COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR), UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN NEAR EAST, 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 actions financed by the Community in order to establish whether they have achieved their objectives and to produce guidelines for improving the effectiveness of subsequent actions." 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. 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.

For International Organisations, identified as potential partners for implementing this Decision, actions will be managed under Joint Management.

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.