



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels
C(2008) XXX final

COMMISSION DECISION

of

on the financing of humanitarian actions from the general budget of the European Communities in Bolivia

(ECHO/-FA/BUD/2008/06000)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid ¹, and in particular Article 2 and Article 15(2) thereof:

Whereas:

- (1) This year's cold wave has severely impacted crops and livelihoods of vulnerable subsistence farming communities and alpaca and llama breeders living in the Andean Highlands of Bolivia;
- (2) Agricultural production and Andean alpaca and llama breeding are highly vulnerable to extreme climatic effects and to climatic variations. The agricultural window allowed by the weather at altitudes over 3.500 metres for sowing, maturing and harvesting is well determined, with specific dates for each agricultural work;
- (3) The wave resulted in extremely low production of food crops (barley, beans and potatoes) for the subsistence farmers and forages (oats, barley) for hay making, leaving alpaca and llama breeders with no alternative food for their herds;
- (4) Cold temperatures and lack of proper pastures and alternative hay has left the herds particularly vulnerable to different diseases and bacterial infections and is resulting in unusually high levels of sick and dying animals;
- (5) The affected population faces a drastic shortfall of their income and source of food;

¹ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

- (6) To reach populations in need, aid should be channelled through International Organisations including United Nations (UN) agencies. Therefore the European Commission should implement the budget by joint management;
- (7) 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.;
- (8) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 1,000,000 from budget line 23 02 02 of the general budget of the European Communities is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to over 30,000 vulnerable subsistence farming communities and alpaca and llama breeders, 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;
- (9) The present Decision constitutes a financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002², Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002³, and Article 15 of the internal rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Communities⁴.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of EUR 1,000,000 for humanitarian aid Actions to victims of the cold wave in Bolivia by using line 23 02 02 of the 2008 general budget of the European Communities.
2. In accordance with Article 2 of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the humanitarian Actions shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective:
 - To provide short-term food-security and livelihood support for vulnerable populations affected by the cold wave in BoliviaThe full amount of this Decision has been allocated to this specific objective.

Article 2

1. The duration for the implementation of this Decision shall be for a maximum period of 12 months, starting on 1 November 2008.
2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 1 November 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.

² OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1.

³ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, , p.1.

⁴ Commission Decision of 5.3.2008, C/2008/773

Article 3

1. Actions supported by this Decision will be implemented by joint management with 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 4

This Decision will 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-security and livelihood support for vulnerable populations affected by the cold wave in Bolivia

Location of Action: Bolivia

Amount of Decision: EUR 1,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/-FA/BUD/2008/06000

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population.

1.1. - Rationale:

As a consequence of this year's cold wave event in Bolivia, crops and natural pastures have been damaged, seriously affecting the livelihoods of the most vulnerable population. Furthermore, a combination of soaring food prices, lower alpaca meat and wool prices and lower yields for food crops is squeezing the livelihoods of the most vulnerable from the supply side (low yields for food crops and higher prices for most food items) and from the demand side (lower prices for alpaca meat and fibres).

Andean farmers have reported an early frost in February-March, which combined with the late sowing (in December instead of October-November due to delayed rains), has had a devastating effect on the crops that were sown in late 2007, affecting the plants during the flowering stage. The area was further affected by severe episodes of frost and hailstorms from March to July. The result has been a poor harvest for Andean food crops (sour potato, sweet potato, beans and oats) between 30-40% lower than in normal years. Farmers have suffered these losses at harvest time between May and June, and have reported their concerns about being unable to find seeds for this year's upcoming sowing season. From June to August the Bolivian government, through the Civil Defence Vice Minister, received several requests from indigenous farmers to declare a state of emergency based on the severe impact of the cold wave on Andean crops and livestock¹. The concurrent political and social turmoil in Bolivia has doubtless meant that the government response to this crisis has been hampered.

¹ FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization)

The same cold wave is affecting similar Andean areas of Peru, and DG ECHO² has intervened with food assistance support.

The early frost of February hampered the development of forages (oats, barley) planted at lower altitudes for hay making. This has left camelid breeders with no alternative food for their herds, other than the already damaged grasslands³. Cold temperatures and lack of proper pastures and alternative hay is resulting in unusually high levels of sick animals (between 10-15% in some areas)⁴.

The effects of the cold wave have started to become evident in the months of July-August and the most severely affected animals are pregnant alpacas, baby alpacas and sheep. In July and August, pregnant camelids had unusually high rates of abortions due to the lack of available food, disease and cold temperatures. Cold weather, malnutrition and lack of food, have compounded regular diseases affecting the herds, which have taken a higher toll than usual. Camelids started to die in significant numbers in late July-August. Breeders anticipate heavy casualties during the upcoming months of August-October.

Real damages will be manifested in the months of September and October, critical months for agriculture and livestock even in normal climatic conditions. This overview will cause malnutrition, digestive diseases, infections and parasite diseases in the livestock.

To achieve a better understanding of the damage and losses caused by the effects of the freezes in the areas which report the highest quantity of dead animals (llamas and alpacas), FAO Bolivia undertook a preliminary assessment in the field, through direct interviews of more than 1,100 random breeders of llamas, and subsistence farmers living above 3,600 meters.

The population above 3,500 metres devoted just to llama, is 53,360 families (Livestock Department of Ministry of Agriculture, Bolivia, 2005). Of this number, the percentage of people affected by this year's cold wave as per FAO research and field work is of 45% of those families of llama breeders.

These erratic climatic models, combined with potato pests, llama and sheep diseases, increased food prices and damaged food crops and natural pastures have seriously affected the livelihoods of the most vulnerable population.

Given the technical competence and expertise of the FAO – it is the reference in the field of food security - it is the most appropriate and reliable partner for this kind of intervention.

1.2. - Identified needs:

Main needs

- Organic fertilizer and high quality seeds of barley, potato, quinoa and beans
- Agriculture inputs
- Technical capacity building for crop protection and seed selection during agriculture campaign
- Veterinary medicines; animal feed and forage seeds

² Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid – DG ECHO)

³ ECHO SitRep no 3

⁴ FAO (United Nations- Food and Agriculture Organization)

- Emergency rations of alfalfa and animal mixed feed to cover most urgent feed needs of mother camelids.
- Veterinarian medicines. Full veterinarian treatment for camelids identified on veterinary urgency
- Forage seeds to promote fodder production
- Technical assistance for fodder conservation

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

The Decision will target a population of up to 30,348 people, who face a situation of severe food insecurity caused by the cold wave in the Andean regions of Potosí, La Paz and Cochabamba.

Priority will be given to two distinct target groups which have been defined based on the field evaluation undertaken by FAO and data from the WFP, Ministries and some NGOs.

- **Subsistence llama breeders** consisting of small-scale llama producers, living in communities above 3,500 metres, whose livelihoods depend exclusively on llama and alpaca breeding; with less than 34 animals in their herd (average); whose animals are fed from community pastures; and who have suffered losses to their herd of 10 to 15%.
- **subsistence farmers** consisting of small farmers living above 3,500 metres, with less than 1 ha of communal land available; their livelihoods depend on the cultivation of native crops such as potato, barley, quinoa and beans; no access to irrigation; who traditionally plant from their harvest and who have suffered losses to their production above 40%.

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints:

Access to isolated rural areas is the main constraint for the delivery of humanitarian aid to the population affected by the cold wave.

Adverse climatic conditions may have an impact on implementation.

A recurrence of political instability could affect implementation.

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 cold wave in the Andean highlands of Bolivia

Specific objectives: To provide short-term food-security and livelihood support for vulnerable populations affected by the cold wave in Bolivia

2.2. - Components:

Restoring basic livelihoods and strengthening resilience to future shocks, through short-term support to food production (e.g. seeds and tools, fertilizers), improved food sources and livestock support:

5 - Overview of donors' contributions:

Donors in BOLIVIA the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria	11,000	DG ECHO	2,000,000		
Belgium	250,000	Other services			
Bulgaria					
Cyprus					
Czech republic					
Denmark	268,264				
Estonia					
Finland					
France	145,000				
Germany	1,219,937				
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland					
Italy	2,300,000				
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg	50,000				
Malta					
Netherlands	740,000				
Poland					
Portugal					
Romania					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain	169,860				
Sweden	634,943				
United kingdom					
Subtotal	5,789,004	Subtotal	2,000,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	7,789,004		

Dated : 09 October 2008

(*) Source : DG ECHO 14 Points reporting for Members States. <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hac>
Empty cells means either no information is available or no contribution.

6 - Amount of Decision and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1. - Total amount of the Decision: EUR 1,000,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: To provide short-term food-security and emergency livelihood support to victims of the cold wave in Bolivia				
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Activities	Potential partners⁵
Specific objective 1: To provide short-term food security and livelihood support for vulnerable populations affected by the cold wave in Bolivia	1,000,000	Bolivia: the Andean regions of Potosí, La Paz and Cochabamba.	Distribution of seeds, tools and agricultural inputs to vulnerable groups. Emergency support for livestock production, veterinary health and herd protection Emergency support for protecting, strengthening or recovering other vulnerable livelihoods. Technical review, development of assessment tools, staff training and dissemination	- FAO
TOTAL:	1,000,000			

⁵ UNITED NATIONS - FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

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 the Decision, actions will be managed under joint management. For the purpose of this Decision, FAO is the only international organisation to be involved in 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.