

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

**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>1</sup>, and in particular Article 2(a) and Article 13 thereof,

Whereas:

1. The north and north-east of Namibia, particularly in the regions of Omusati, Oshikoto, Oshana, Ohangwena and Caprivi, are subject to severe flooding due to heavy rains and the inflow of water from southern Angola. In consequence, the Government of Namibia declared a state of emergency on 4 March 2008;
2. More than 4,000 people are currently living in temporary shelter in urban areas, and it is estimated that over 65,000 people are displaced in rural areas ;
3. Outbreaks of cholera and malaria have been declared, with the situation expected to worsen, as mosquitoes breed in the pools of standing water, and drinking water sources contaminated ;
4. The constant heavy rain had also caused an outbreak of army worms in the Oshana and Oshikoto regions, posing a major threat to crops and pasture, and therefore food stocks and livelihoods ;
5. Humanitarian aid operations financed by this Decision should be of a maximum duration of 6 months ;
6. It is estimated that an amount of EUR 350,000 from budget line 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Communities is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations affected by flooding, taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions and other factors ;
7. The present Decision constitutes a financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002<sup>2</sup>, Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002<sup>3</sup>, and Article 15 of the Internal Rules on the Implementation of the general budget of the European Communities<sup>4</sup>.

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1- OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6, as amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) n° 1882/2003 (OJ L 284, 31.10.2003, p. 1)

2- OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1995/2006, OJ L 390, 30.12.2006, p.1 and by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1525/2007 of 17 December 2007, OJ L 343 of 27.12.2007, p. 9.

3- OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1 Regulation as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC Euratom) No. 478/2007, OJ L 111 of 28.4.2007, P. 13

4- Commission Decision of 5.3.2008, C/2008/773

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 350,000 for emergency humanitarian aid operations to provide the necessary assistance and relief to vulnerable populations affected by flooding in Namibia by using line 23 02 01 of the 2008 general budget of the European Communities.

2. In accordance with Article 2(a) of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objectives:

- To provide emergency relief assistance to vulnerable people affected by flooding.

The total amount of this Decision is allocated to this objective.

*Article 2*

1. The implementation of humanitarian aid operations funded by this Decision shall have a maximum duration of 6 months from their starting date.

2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

3. If the operations envisaged in this Decision are suspended owing to force majeure or comparable circumstances, the period of suspension shall not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the humanitarian aid operations.

*Article 3*

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

2. The actions supported by this Decision will be implemented by humanitarian aid organisations that are signatories to the Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) or the EC/UN Financial Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA).

3. Taking account of the specificities of humanitarian aid, the nature of the activities to be undertaken, the specific location constraints and the level of urgency, the activities covered by this Decision may be financed in full in accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation.

*Article 4*

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission



**Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision**

**23 02 01**

Title: Emergency humanitarian assistance for populations affected by flooding in northern Namibia

Location of operation: Namibia

Amount of Decision: EUR 350,000

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

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**Explanatory Memorandum**

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

1.1. - Rationale :

The Government of Namibia declared a state of emergency on 4 March 2008 and appealed to the international community for assistance, in response to the severe flooding in north and north-east Namibia, particularly in the regions of Omusati, Oshikoto, Oshana, Ohangwena and Caprivi. The floods are due to the above average rainfall that began in January 2008 and which is likely to continue during April, as well as the inflow of water from the Cuvelai river system in southern Angola.

Floods are a recurrent event in the four north-eastern regions as well as in the Caprivi but the magnitude of floods this year has not been experienced for almost two decades.

The rains have been forecasted to stop at the end of April but it has been estimated that even once they have stopped the waters will still take eight weeks to recede given the high clay content of the soil.

The northern regions of Namibia are the most densely populated, with an approximate 529,000 people living in the five regions. Due to its high rainfall areas and year-round flowing rivers (Kunene, Kavango, Zambesi) it is the only part of the country where (rain-fed)

subsistence farming is possible and people over the centuries have for this reason chosen to settle there. The rest of Namibia is covered by dry savannah and more than 60% is desert.

The northern regions house rural and urban communities. The rural communities rely mostly on subsistence farming and during the rainy season on fishing. The majority of the urban population lives in informal settlements with income sources from small retail and activities in the informal economy. Poverty is a particular a problem in the north, with approximately 60% of the youth unemployed.

More than 4,000 people are currently living in temporary shelters in urban areas, and it is estimated that over 65,000 people could be displaced in rural areas as their livelihoods and immediate environment have been badly affected.

Up to 70% of outreach points and 50% of health clinics have been cut off by the floods, halting critical health services to the populations in these areas.

A cholera and diarrheic diseases outbreak has been declared, with over 1,000 cases reported so far, and an upsurge in malaria has already been noted, with more than 1,600 cases. Figures are rapidly increasing and it is expected that epidemic levels will be reached over the next few weeks. As malaria is already endemic in this part of the country, with averages peaking in May, the situation is likely to be aggravated by the surplus pools of water in which mosquitoes enjoy breeding, as well as the non-operation of clinics and nurses.

Moreover, Namibia is subject to an influx of people from Angola which poses an additional strain on the Namibian health system whose capacity to deal with epidemics has already been severely reduced.

Food security has been drastically affected, as most communities were already badly affected by the long drought of 2006-2007. In an effort to combat the effects of this drought, the Government of Namibia had carried out various agricultural assistance schemes to farmers including the provision of seed subsidies. However, the long and sustained rains since the beginning of this year have led to water-logging and leaching, damaging seeds, hence major losses to crops are expected. Moreover, the constant heavy rain had also caused an outbreak of army worms in the Oshana and Oshikoto regions, posing a further major threat to crops and pasture.

The Government is making a tremendous effort to assist the affected population, but has been stretched in all areas - notably logistics, staff, infrastructure, and finance. On 20 March 2008, it established a Flood Emergency Management Coordination Office (FEMCO) at Oshakati to manage flood relief activities in the affected regions and has pledged resources of NAMD 37,000,000 (approximately EUR 3,000,000) available.

After two years of budget surplus, the Government is now facing a budget deficit for 2008/2009.

## 1.2. - Identified needs :

A joint Government, United Nations and Namibia Red Cross assessment mission took place from 4-12 March 2008. A report was released on 26 March 2008. The European Commission Head of Delegation was subsequently invited to meet with Prime Minister Nahas Angula in order to discuss DG ECHO<sup>5</sup>'s assessment of this same report as well as ECHO's own field assessment.

The immediate needs were identified as follows :

- the provision of temporary **shelter** and of **emergency relief items** to those who have been made homeless, especially those who have been unable to secure temporary accommodation with other families ;
- access to **safe water**, including cleaning and rehabilitation of wells, tanks and other water containers, chlorination of water sources in order to reduce the high vulnerability to water borne diseases inherent with flooding, and hygiene inputs and education ;
- **access to health care**, including the setting up of cholera therapeutic centres; provision of essential medicines and medical material; epidemiological surveillance in view of the heightened **risk of epidemic outbreak**;
- strengthening the **humanitarian response coordination**
- **food aid** in the short term for the most vulnerable. At the same time, **emergency food security** interventions will be required to ensure that plant pests can be combated, and crops can be replanted as soon as the flood waters have sufficiently receded.

The key to the above is access, which will require road clearance, boats and air support.

## 1.3. - Target population and regions concerned :

This Decision will support interventions targeting populations displaced or otherwise affected by the flooding in the northern and north-eastern areas of Namibia. These numbers could vary from 4,000 to more than 65,000 depending on the evolution of the flooding.

## 1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints :

Humanitarian interventions in Namibia should generally not encounter major security risks. In a situation of severe flooding, access is likely to be difficult, and some roads in the target areas are impassable. This means that a good part of the assistance will need to be transported by air thus adding to implementation costs or by boat, thus adding to implementation time.

It is difficult to predict how the situation will evolve. If the rains cease or ease off, it could stabilise and allow populations to quickly resume their normal lives. If, however, the rains continue and/or increase in intensity, the situation could rapidly deteriorate.

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<sup>5</sup> Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid – DG ECHO  
ECHO/NAM/BUD/2008/01000

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

### **2.1. - Objectives :**

Principal objective: To support an emergency response to severe flooding

Specific objective:

- To provide emergency relief assistance to vulnerable people affected by flooding

### **2.2. - Components :**

Interventions will be specifically targeting the relief phase.

Components to be considered for funding will include the following: emergency public health interventions (both medical and watsan); the provision of food, non-food and temporary shelter items; logistics.

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

The duration of humanitarian aid operations shall be 6 months.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 4th March 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.

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

List of previous DG ECHO operations in NAMIBIA				
Decision Number	Decision Type	2006 EUR	2007 EUR	2008 EUR
ECHO/-AF/EDF/2007/01000 (*)	Non Emergency		0	
Subtotal		0	0	0
Grand Total		0		

Dated : 01 April 2008  
Source : HOPE

(\*) decisions with more than one country



## 5 - Overview of donors' contributions

Donors in NAMIBIA 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					
Germany					
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland					
Italy					
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg	100,000				
Malta					
Netherlands					
Poland					
Portugal					
Romania					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain					
Sweden	158,764				
United kingdom					
Subtotal	258,764	Subtotal	0	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	258,764		

Dated : 01 April 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 350,000

### 6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

<b>Principal objective:</b> <i>To support an emergency response to severe flooding</i>			
<b>Specific objectives</b>	<b>Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)</b>	<b>Geographical area of operation</b>	<b>Potential partners<sup>6</sup></b>
Specific objective 1: To provide emergency relief assistance to vulnerable people affected by flooding	350,000	North and north-east areas of Namibia affected by flooding	- IFRC-FICR - MSF-NL - UNICEF - WFP-PAM - WHO
TOTAL:350,000			

<sup>6</sup> ARTSEN ZONDER GRENZEN (NLD), FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE, UNICEF, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, 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 01

	CE (EUR)
Initial Available Appropriations for 2008	486,095,000.00
Transfers Commission	
<b>Total Available Appropriations</b>	<b>486,095,000.00</b>
Total executed to date (15.04.2008)	394,300,000.00
Available remaining	91,795,000.00
<b>Total amount of the Decision</b>	<b>350,000.00</b>

## 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.