



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels
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COMMISSION DECISION

of

**on the financing of emergency humanitarian Actions from the general budget of the
European Communities in YEMEN**

(ECHO/YEM/BUD/2008/02000)

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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, Euratom) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid¹, and in particular Article 2(a) and Article 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) South East Yemen was affected by flash floods on 23 October 2008 which, according to Government sources, killed 180 persons and destroyed more than 3250 houses. The number of internally displaced persons has been estimated by the UN assessment mission between 25.000 and 30.000 persons. On 25 October, the situation has been declared as a disaster by the President and the Government has welcomed international assistance.
- (2) The Commission has conducted a needs assessment mission just after the disaster (from 27-30 October) which has identified the following urgent humanitarian needs: distribution of basic non-food items (including tents, plastic sheeting, mattresses, blankets, jerry cans, impregnated mosquito nets, kitchen sets), dewatering, cleaning of wells, restoration of clear water supply to areas where water distribution has been destroyed, provision of water storage tanks and distribution systems, testing of water quality from existing or damaged water systems, livelihood support to vulnerable communities or households.
- (3) To reach populations in need, emergency aid should be channelled through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) or International Organisations including United Nations (UN) agencies. Therefore, the European Commission should implement the budget by direct centralised management or by joint management.
- (4) Humanitarian aid Actions financed by this Decision should be of a maximum duration of 6 months.
- (5) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 600,000 from budget line 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Communities is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to over 20,000 most affected persons, 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 complementing rules of the Financial Regulation.

¹ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

- (6) 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 600,000 for emergency humanitarian aid Actions to provide the necessary assistance and relief to the local population affected by the flooding in South East Yemen 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 Actions shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective:
 - to provide immediate relief assistance to the most vulnerable populations affected by the flooding in Yemen .

An amount of EUR 600,000 is allocated to this specific objective.

Article 2

1. The implementation of humanitarian aid Actions 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 23 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 humanitarian aid Actions.

Article 3

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

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

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

Done at Brussels

For the Commission
Member of the Commission



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HUMANITARIAN AID - ECHO

Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision

23 02 01

Title: Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of South East Yemen affected by the October 2008 flooding

Location of Action: YEMEN

Amount of Decision: EUR 600,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/YEM/BUD/2008/02000

Supporting Document

1 - Rationale, needs and target population.

1.1. - Rationale :

Heavy rains brought on by a tropical storm on 23 October caused flash floods in the eastern parts of Yemen, severely affecting the governorates of *Hadramout* and *Al-Maharah*; both of which were declared disaster zones on 24 October. The five Districts most affected are; Sah, Tareem, Alsowm, Alqutn, Shibam.

According to the most recent assessment by the Government of Yemen⁵, more than 180 people were killed, 68 are still missing and between 20,000 and 25,000 persons are in need of adequate shelter as 3,264 houses were destroyed or badly damaged. The situation has been declared on 25 October as a disaster by the President and the Government who declared that it welcomes international assistance.

Animals were swept away with the floods – many of the dead carcasses remain on the ground posing a health risk. Local authorities said the floods caused heavy damage to roads, power and water distribution networks. Many date trees have been uprooted, highways (main ones) in the province have collapsed, electricity posts are lying on the roads leaving huge areas with electricity cut off and with electricity cables on the main road and between roads and houses which risks the lives of many people, passengers and IDP's (Internally Displaced Persons) residing in schools.

Agriculture which is the major source of income in Hadramout has been affected. The Hadramout department of agriculture could not give a detailed picture at the end of October and considers that 3 weeks will be necessary to complete the damage assessment. Preliminary information available indicate destruction of 10 000 palm trees, 10 000 beehives, 100 wells in need of repairs in rural areas. The UN mission could witness destruction on fields, dead palm trees and dead animals.

Yemen is a very vulnerable country. The UNDP 2007 Human Development Report ranks it 153rd from 177 countries on its Human Development Index, in regression from 2004 when it ranked 149th. 40% of the 21.1 million inhabitants live in absolute poverty. Yemen is by far the poorest country in the wider Middle East, with a GDP of USD 930 per capita.

1.2. - Identified needs :

A United Nations assessment team composed of WFP, WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR and IOM and accompanied by DG ECHO⁶ stayed in the governorate of Hadramout from 27-30 October.

In this short time frame and with the logistical constraints the assessment was very rapid and has to be considered as initial. It consisted in receiving the information from the authorities and triangulating it with direct observation from field visits and interview with other key informants. As of 4 November, according to the UN, some 15% of the affected area were still out of range and potential needs not possible to assess. The UN assessment mission identified the following needs:

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI): The vast majority of displaced people are hosted in their extended families. There is an immediate need for temporary shelter for those living in

⁵ See Ocha sitrep n°3 from 1 November 2008 and DG ECHO sitrep n°2 from 30 October 2008

⁶ Directorate-General for humanitarian aid

schools⁷. Tents could be useful but only in the short term since it is not culturally well accepted and since the temperature will become too cold in December. Winterised tents and plastic sheeting will be necessary for those IDPs who will not be able to reconstruct their houses until next spring and those who will not be able to stay through the winter with host families or in public buildings.

NFI are needed by those who lost all their belongings in the destruction of their houses. NFI assistance must address immediate needs of IDPs, most vulnerable host families and returnees. Affected population has expressed needs for essential items such as blankets, mattresses, jerry cans, kitchen sets, clothes, impregnated mosquito nets, tents.

WASH (Water and Sanitation, Hygiene): The potable water systems have been partially damaged in urban areas and an estimated 100 wells are in need of repairs in rural areas. There is a need for chlorinated water trucking in the initial phase, followed by emergency repair of water supply networks in semi-urban areas as well as community-based water distribution systems in more rural areas. Sanitation should be looked at in the IDP settlements and hygiene kits are also needed for IDPs families.

Health : MSF reports the situation as under control so far but with potential problems in 2–3 weeks. The health system has the capacity to cope but needs support in terms of medicines and reinforced surveillance. Mosquito nets are needed mainly in Sah district where malaria is endemic. A measles vaccination campaign could be considered.

Food and nutrition : As the floods wiped away agricultural assets, the most affected population depend on food aid for some weeks. According to the assessment carried out by WFP earlier this year, this region was the most food insecure amongst the four surveyed with a staggering 64% of the population being severely food insecure - i.e. one or more members of the surveyed household did not eat for an entire day for due to lack of food.

Livelihoods : Agriculture is the main source of income in the *wadi*. Many assets have been lost including cattle (camel, goats), crops (palm trees, wheat, vegetable gardens), beehives for honey production. In some places the agricultural soil has been washed away. Support to livelihood recovery should be ensured once the road network has been repaired and houses rehabilitated and rebuilt. This should enable a steady phasing down of food aid.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned :

The primary beneficiaries of this Decision are the population most affected by the flooding: IDPs and people who lost their agricultural assets (palm trees, beehives, crops, livestock,...).

Most vulnerable host families must also be taken into account since it is expected that part of the IDP caseload will stay with them through the winter. This population is located in the Hadramout and Al Mahara governorates.

⁷ Government of Yemen reports that 61 public schools were occupied by IDPs as of 4 November.

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints :

The region of intervention has been confronted by insecurity problems which could handicap the foreseen implementation of operations.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. - Objectives :

Principal objective: To save and preserve lives of the population affected by the flooding in Yemen.

Specific objective: To provide immediate relief assistance to the most vulnerable population affected by the flooding in Yemen

2.2. - Components :

NFI

- distribution of basic non food items including tents, mattresses, blankets, jerry cans, impregnated mosquito nets, kitchen sets;clothes

WASH:

- dewatering and cleaning of wells;
- restoration of clear water supply to areas where water distribution has been destroyed;
- provision of water storage tanks and distribution systems;
- testing of water quality from existing or damaged water systems;
- provision of sanitation facilities (latrines if appropriate) in IDP settlements.
- distribution of hygiene items with special focus on soap.

Livelihood

- supply of animal inputs and vaccination of animals.
- distribution of seeds and fertilisers.
- distribution of assets, e.g. livestock, palm tree saplings, beehives and beekeeping equipment.
- emergency rehabilitation of agricultural land.

3 - Duration expected for Actions in the proposed Decision:

The duration of humanitarian aid Actions shall be 6 months.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 23 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.

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

List of previous DG ECHO operations in YEMEN

		2006	2007	2008
Decision Number	Decision Type	EUR	EUR	EUR
ECHO/YEM/BUD/2007/01000	Non Emergency		990,000	
ECHO/YEM/BUD/2008/01000	Emergency			1,000,000
Subtotal		0	990,000	1,000,000
Grand Total		1,990,000		

Dated : 04 November 2008

Source : HOPE

5 - Overview of donors' contributions

Donors in **YEMEN** the last 12 months

1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria		DG ECHO	1,000,000		
Belgium		Other services			
Bulgaria					
Cyprus					
Czech republic					
Denmark					
Estonia					
Finland					
France					
Germany	412,881				
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland					
Italy	1,250,000				
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg					
Malta					
Netherlands	1,500,240				
Poland					
Portugal					
Romania					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					

Spain					
Sweden	273,052				
United kingdom					
Subtotal	3,436,173	Subtotal	1,000,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	4,436,173		

Dated : 04 November 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 600,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: <i>To save and preserve lives of the Yemen population affected by the flooding of end October 2008</i>			
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Potential partners⁸
Specific objective 1: To provide immediate relief assistance to the most vulnerable populations affected the floodings in Yemen.	600,000	South East YEMEN	- OXFAM - UK - UNHCR
TOTAL:600,000			

⁸ OXFAM (GB), UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES - BELGIUM

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.

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.