



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 BANGLADESH**

(ECHO/BGD/BUD/2009/03000)

## COMMISSION DECISION

of

### on the financing of emergency humanitarian Actions from the general budget of the European Communities in BANGLADESH

(ECHO/BGD/BUD/2009/03000)

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) On 25 May 2009, the Category-2 cyclone "AILA" hit the Southern coast of Bangladesh, with winds of up to 90 km per hour triggering tidal waves up to 4 meters high,
- (2) According to the Government of Bangladesh, more than 3.9 million people in 11 southern districts have been directly affected and, as of 11 June 2009, the death toll has reached 190 people. The most affected districts are located in the western part of the Bengal Bay,
- (3) The cyclone has caused extensive damage, damaging over 600,000 houses, health and water and sanitation infrastructure as well as destroying flood protection embankments, contaminating water sources, killing livestock and destroying livelihoods,
- (4) More than two weeks after the storm, approximately 1 million people are still marooned in remote areas and taking shelter on roads or embankments, as many areas are still under water or water-logged,
- (5) Preliminary information reports state that at least 70% of shrimp farms and fisheries, a significant pillar of the local economy, have been washed away by the tidal waves, creating a severe employment crisis and hampering the restart of livelihood activities. In order to find employment and living places, some families have already started migrating to other districts/cities,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

- (6) A DG ECHO<sup>2</sup> mission was deployed to the affected areas to assess the severity of the crisis and recommended that an emergency intervention be launched as soon as possible to address the acute needs of shelter, food, safe water and sanitation. When feasible, early recovery and livelihood support activities should also be implemented as soon as possible,
- (7) While the Government of Bangladesh is coordinating the emergency response, the scale of disaster far exceeds its local response capacity. There are few donors intervening to respond to the needs and with limited funds. NGOs' response is also limited as their financial capacity is already reduced as a result of the current global recession,
- (8) With the onset of the monsoon, the situation is very likely to deteriorate even further if the situation is not addressed urgently,
- (9) To reach populations in need, humanitarian aid should be channelled through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and International Organisations including United Nations (UN) agencies. Therefore the European Commission should implement the budget by direct centralized management or by joint management,
- (10) Humanitarian aid Actions financed by this Decision should be of a maximum duration of 6 months,
- (11) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 4,000,000 from budget article 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Communities is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to over 400,000 cyclone affected people, taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions and other factors. The activities covered by this Decision may be financed in full in accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation,
- (12) The present Decision constitutes a financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002<sup>3</sup>, Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002<sup>4</sup>, and Article 15 of the internal rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Communities<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid - ECHO

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1.

<sup>5</sup> 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 4,000,000 for the financing of emergency humanitarian Actions in Bangladesh from budget article 23.02.01 of the 2009 general budget of the European Communities.
2. In accordance with Article 2(a) of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the principal objective of this Decision is to save and preserve the life of the population of Bangladesh affected by cyclone AILA. The humanitarian Actions shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective:
  - to provide emergency and early recovery assistance to the victims of cyclone AILA.

The full amount of this Decision is allocated to this specific objective.

*Article 2*

1. The period for the implementation of the Actions financed under this Decision shall start on 25 May 2009. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from the same date. The duration of individual humanitarian aid Actions financed under this Decision shall be limited to a maximum of six months.
2. If the implementation of individual Actions is suspended owing to force majeure or other exceptional circumstances, the period of suspension shall not be taken into account in the implementing period of the Decision in respect of the Action suspended.
3. In accordance with the contractual provisions ruling the Agreements financed under this Decision, the Commission may consider eligible those costs arising and incurred after the end of the implementing period of the Action which are necessary for its winding-up.

*Article 3*

1. In accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules and having regard to the urgency of the Action, the availability of other donors and other relevant operational circumstances, funds under this Decision may finance humanitarian Actions in full.
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 and International organisations,
3. The Commission shall implement the budget:
  - either by direct centralised management, with Non-governmental Organisations;
  - or by joint management with International Organisations that are signatories to the Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) or the EC/UN Financial Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) and which were subject to the four pillar assessment in line with Article 53d of the Financial Regulation.

*Article 4*

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: Commission Decision on the financing of emergency humanitarian Actions from the general budget of the European Communities in BANGLADESH

Location of Action: BANGLADESH

Amount of Decision: EUR 4,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/BGD/BUD/2009/03000

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**Supporting Document**

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

1.1. - Rationale :

Bangladesh is the world's most densely populated country with a density close to 1,000 people per square kilometre. The largest part of the country is near or at sea level, extremely vulnerable to tidal waves, cyclones, and tropical storms, earthquakes and flooding. Bangladesh is directly affected by climate change.

On 25 May 2009, the Category-2 cyclone "AILA" struck at high tide the southern coast of Bangladesh, with winds up to 90 km per hour. Tidal waves up to 4 meters high hit the mainland and the offshore islands, greatly increasing the level of rivers and destroying many protective embankments, houses and infrastructures.

Officially, more than 3.9 million people in 11 southern districts have been affected by the cyclonic storm<sup>1</sup>. As of 11 June 2009, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) reports a death toll of 190 people.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Disaster Management Information Centre – 7 June 2009

Early warning and evacuation programmes in place were triggered before the cyclone hit, which greatly limited the number of casualties<sup>2</sup>. This allowed people living in the coastal belt to be evacuated to safer places like cyclone shelters and education institutions before Cyclone AILA hit. According to IFRC<sup>3</sup>, an estimated population of 464,000 people was evacuated, before or immediately after the cyclone struck, most of them were regrouped in organized storm shelters.

The most severely affected districts are the western coastal districts as the cyclone moved westwards from the Bay of Bengal: Satkhira, Khulna, Patuakhali and Bhola are the most affected areas while the districts of Bagerhat, Barisal, Barguna, Pirojpur, Noakhali, Laxmipur and Chittagong have also suffered extensive damage.

More than two weeks after the storm, it is estimated by agencies working in the area that approximately one million people<sup>4</sup> are still marooned in remote areas and taking shelter on roads or embankments.

Material damage is extensive. As of 11 June 2009, the total number of houses fully or partially damaged is over half a million homes. Extensive damage to flood protection embankments, roads, bridges, and public buildings was also reported. Over 2,000 km of coastal embankments<sup>5</sup>, which protect villages against flooding have been destroyed, leaving communities vulnerable as annual monsoon rains begin in the coming weeks which will result in significantly raised water levels in rivers.

The cyclone caused the contamination of drinking water sources, in particular wells and ponds, which have been inundated by saline water brought by the tidal waves, and it will take time before the ponds can be drained of saline water. Saline water from the tidal surge and later the flood has ruined crops and vegetation. Ponds have been spoiled and major stocks of fish and shrimps have died.

Despite no severe diarrhoeal or water borne disease outbreaks currently reported in epidemic form, such outbreaks could occur if the current water crisis and sanitation problem are not immediately addressed.

The GoB estimates that more than 323,000 acres of crops are damaged and over 150,000 head of livestock are confirmed killed. The main sources of livelihood in these regions are linked to shrimp farming, fishing and wood collection from the Sundarban mangrove forest. Preliminary information reports state that at least 70% of shrimp farms and fisheries have been washed away<sup>6</sup> by the tidal waves, creating a severe employment crisis. Secondary sectors including shop keepers, van and rickshaw pullers and day labourers have also been badly affected.

In order to find employment and living places, some families have already started migrating to other districts/cities.

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<sup>2</sup> The Bangladesh Red Cross society and the International Federation of Red Cross have been disseminating signals at communities and collecting information about local weather condition, readiness of volunteers to respond to emergency, coordination with local administration through HF/VHF radio network in 11 coastal districts.

<sup>3</sup> IFRC : International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<sup>4</sup> Mainly located in the western part of affected districts such as Shatkhira and Khulna districts

<sup>5</sup> ECHO Sitrep 1 June 2009

<sup>6</sup> Source : Centre for Coastal Environmental Conservation, 26 May 2009

Cyclone AILA also damaged extensively the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest a designated UNESCO<sup>7</sup> world heritage site. However, the magnitude of the devastation would have been much worse in the absence of the Sundarban mangroves, which acted as a critical protective barrier against the cyclone and tidal surge.

With the onset of the monsoon, the situation is very likely to deteriorate even further if the situation is not addressed urgently.

## 1.2. - Identified needs :

Unlike what happened during cyclone SIDR<sup>8</sup>, consolidated post-AILA information appeared relatively late and remained partial during the days following the disaster due to the fact that AILA was much weaker than cyclone SIDR in terms of its wind speed category and anticipated damage. With time, more details of damage came to light and showed that the effects of the cyclone are far more significant than anticipated in the immediate aftermath of the disaster. Impact is particularly serious in the western parts of the coastal region due to the long-lasting hit that continued for 6-8 hours during high tide. Unlike other disaster prone areas, even within the coastal region, people's resilience and coping capacity is weaker in the western part of the coastal region as they have not faced such a disaster since 1988.

A DG ECHO<sup>9</sup> team was deployed to the most affected districts<sup>10</sup> where they remained for four days, to evaluate the extent of the impact and assess immediate needs. Several needs assessments from various Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) provided additional information on the humanitarian needs caused by the cyclone. Detailed assessments are still in progress.

Initial assessments of the affected areas report an appalling humanitarian situation with an acute, on-going crisis of food, water, emergency shelter, and sanitation, particularly in areas where people are displaced; uncertainty over whether people will be able to return to their homes until or unless the embankments are repaired or reconstructed. There are presently hundreds of thousands of affected people with immediate needs to be met.

The affected people are in urgent need of immediate relief in terms of food, potable water, and shelter. A large majority of the hundreds of thousands who have lost their homes remain without a roof over their heads. Many have had very little to eat since the cyclone struck, and provision of food and potable water remain the most pressing issues. Many resort to drinking from contaminated water sources, giving rise to serious concerns of major outbreaks of diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases.

Since houses, water and sanitation infrastructures and public infrastructure have been destroyed; early recovery and rehabilitation will have to start soon.

As sources of income have been destroyed, livelihood support and early recovery assistance will be needed.

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<sup>7</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

<sup>8</sup> Cat 4 Cyclone SIDR hit the Bengal Bay on 15 November 2007

<sup>9</sup> Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid - ECHO

<sup>10</sup> The mission visited Shamnagor and Ashasoni Sub-districts of Satkhira District; Koyra and Dacope Sub-districts of Khulna District, Sharonkhola Sub-district of Bagerhat District, Zianagor sub-district of Pirojpur District and Golachipa Sub-district of Patuakhali District

Reaching the most remote areas and in particular the chars –low-lying sandbar islands in the middle of the numerous Bangladeshi rivers – remains a challenge for aid workers. As a result, relief assistance is only slowly reaching the victims of the cyclone in the most remote and severely affected areas.

The government of Bangladesh has deployed the military, the navy and the Bangladesh Rifles to help local administrations and non-governmental organizations in rescue and relief operations. Up to five navy ships have been working to bring people stranded on offshore islands to safety. Some 278 water treatment units from the army are in operation to deal with the shortage of safe drinking water. The government administration is also distributing rice among the victims through vulnerable group feeding (VGF) cards. Around EUR 3,300,000 has been allocated for the relief operation and over EUR 11,000,000 has been earmarked for the recovery phase to repair embankments and houses damaged.

The Disaster Emergency Responses (DER) group, operating under the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM), is coordinating the humanitarian response by holding regular meetings with international humanitarian organizations and donors. The cluster system has been activated in the water and sanitation and shelter sectors.

The government has not officially requested assistance from the international community but has repeatedly stated that it appreciates all assistance provided by the aid community. The magnitude of the needs is far greater than the local response mobilised to address the situation.

### 1.3. - Target population and regions concerned :

The target population is the victims of cyclone AILA. The populations of the most severely affected coastal districts of Satkhira and Khulna will be the main beneficiaries of the assistance provided under this decision, while the populations of the other affected districts (Barguna, Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Bhola, Pirojpur, Noakhali) will benefit to a lesser extent from the relief assistance provided under this decision.

Operations will need to take into account the special needs of vulnerable groups such as children<sup>11</sup>, women heads of family, elderly, disabled.

Priority will also be given to operations that mainstream disaster risk reduction into their relief activities as the population targeted by this Decision will most probably have no alternative but to continue to live in disaster-prone areas.

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<sup>11</sup> Children have been severely affected by the effects of the cyclone and represent half of the affected population

#### 1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints :

The access to affected areas might be challenging in some cases due to the flood situation and may require appropriate logistics to bring relief in due time. Many of the areas are under water and some villages are rather isolated from other areas as boat is the only means of communication. Access to the affected areas and swift delivery of humanitarian aid could therefore be a challenge.

The monsoon is about to start and may further hamper the timely delivery of humanitarian aid.

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

### 2.1. - Objectives :

Principal objective: To save and preserve the life of the population of Bangladesh affected by cyclone AILA

Specific objective: To provide emergency and early recovery assistance to the victims of cyclone AILA

### 2.2. - Components :

As of 11 June 2009, it appears that there still is a considerable gap between the most immediate emergency needs and the assistance being delivered. This decision will therefore first focus on addressing these immediate needs to save and preserve the lives of the affected population, by intervening in the following main sectors: food, provision of safe water, restoration of minimal sanitary and hygiene conditions, emergency health needs, emergency shelter and provision of basic households items. Once these most acute needs have been met, the decision will also address early recovery and rehabilitation.

The following actions will be considered per sector:

#### **Food Aid / Food Security**

- Provision of emergency food relief (especially to the remote/unmet pockets).

#### **Shelter**

- Provision of emergency shelter and basic reconstruction material,
- Small-scale rehabilitation of houses damaged.

#### **Water, sanitation and hygiene**

- Provision of safe water: water purification, water treatment, filters, water quality control,
- Clean-up of water sources and distribution networks, including wells and ponds,
- Rehabilitation of water supply and sanitation systems, in particular latrines,
- Hygiene promotional activities along with sanitation; distribution of hygiene kits including water container, soap etc.

## **Health**

- Provision of emergency health care and essential drugs, medical supplies, ORS<sup>12</sup>, first aid kits, primarily for the displaced,
- Prevention of outbreaks of diseases and emergency response, disease surveillance,
- Provision of basic health care services and psycho-social support.

## **Livelihood Support and Early Recovery**

- Cash for work for cleaning of debris, water and sanitation infrastructure and early rehabilitation,
- Small-scale rehabilitation of public infrastructures, including protective embankments and water and sanitation facilities. Inclusion of a Disaster Risk Reduction component where appropriate,
- Livelihood support, including agricultural land rehabilitation provision of seeds, saplings, fertilizers, tools, agricultural inputs, livestock, fishing nets, boats and gear.

## **Non-Food Items**

- Distribution of non food items, including tarpaulins, water containers, clothes, kitchen sets.

Disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction measures will be mainstreamed as much as possible in all activities, to improve the communities' resilience to future natural disasters and flooding cycles.

### **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 25 May 2009.

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.

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<sup>12</sup> Oral Rehydration Salts

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

List of previous DG ECHO operations in BANGLADESH				
Decision Number	Decision Type	2007 EUR	2008 EUR	2009 EUR
ECHO/-SA/BUD/2007/02000 (*)	Emergency	2,500,000		
ECHO/-SA/BUD/2007/03000 (*)	Non Emergency	4,000,000		
ECHO/BGD/BUD/2007/01000	Prim. Emergency	1,500,000		
ECHO/BGD/BUD/2007/02000	Non Emergency	1,500,000		
ECHO/BGD/BUD/2007/03000	Emergency	5,000,000		
ECHO/BGD/BUD/2007/04000	Emergency	1,925,000		
ECHO/DIP/BUD/2007/04000 (*)	Non Emergency	0		
ECHO/-FA/BUD/2008/01000 (*)	Non Emergency		3,650,000	
ECHO/-FA/BUD/2008/02000 (*)	Non Emergency		351,000	
ECHO/BGD/BUD/2008/01000	Emergency		10,000,000	
ECHO/BGD/BUD/2008/02000	Non Emergency		5,000,000	
ECHO/BGD/BUD/2008/03000	Emergency		1,500,000	
ECHO/-FA/BUD/2009/02000	Non Emergency			2,000,000
ECHO/BGD/BUD/2009/01000	Non Emergency			1,000,000
ECHO/BGD/BUD/2009/02000	Emergency			1,000,000
ECHO/DIP/BUD/2009/02000 (*)	Non Emergency			2,500,000
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>16,425,000</b>	<b>20,501,000</b>	<b>6,500,000</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>43,426,000</b>		

Dated : 18 June 2009  
Source : HOPE

(\*) decisions with more than one country

DG ECHO has also been present in the country with its Disaster Preparedness Programme (called DIPECHO) since 2001. Under the 4<sup>th</sup> DIPECHO Action Plan for South Asia (ECHO/DIP/BUD/2007/04000; EUR 7,000,000), five projects had been implemented in Bangladesh for a total amount of EUR 1,380,000. A new, 5<sup>th</sup> Action Plan is about to start and will cover 6 projects for a total of over EUR 2,000,000.

Reports from the field have confirmed the impact of a DIPECHO project implemented in the cyclone AILA affected area that contributed to evacuate people to safe places before the cyclone struck<sup>13</sup>.

As far as other Commission services are concerned, DG RELEX/AIDCO are supporting the CDMP (Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme) which aims at putting in place the foundations for long term sustainable risk reduction in the country. Commission contribution amounts to EUR 9,000,000 (2004-2009 period) and a second phase amounting to EUR 13,000,000 is currently under preparation for the period 2010-2014. This programme complements very well DG ECHO community based Disaster Preparedness interventions in the country. During cyclone AILA, the main source of consolidated information has been provided by the Disaster Management Information centre, funded under the CDMP programme, and supported by the World Food Programme.

<sup>13</sup> Concern Universal

## 5 - Overview of donors' contributions

Donors in BANGLADESH the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria		DG ECHO	11,851,000		
Belgium	990,156	Other services			
Bulgaria					
Cyprus					
Czech republic					
Denmark					
Estonia					
Finland					
France					
Germany	1,751,042				
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland					
Italy	1,900,000				
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg	292,996				
Malta					
Netherlands					
Poland					
Portugal					
Romania					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain					
Sweden	26,081				
United kingdom					
Subtotal	4,960,275	Subtotal	11,851,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	16,811,275		

Dated : 18 June 2009

(\*) 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 4,000,000

## 6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objective

<b>Principal objective:</b> <i>To save and preserve the life of the population of Bangladesh affected by cyclone AILA</i>			
<b>Specific objective</b>	<b>Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)</b>	<b>Geographical area of operation</b>	<b>Potential partners<sup>14</sup></b>
Specific objective : To provide emergency and early recovery assistance to the victims of cyclone AILA	4,000,000	Cyclone AILA affected districts	<u>Direct centralised management</u> - ACTIONAID - CARE - UK - CARITAS - DEU - CHRISTIAN AID - UK - CONCERN WORLDWIDE - DANCHURCHAID - DNK - HOPE´87 - ISLAMIC RELIEF - MSF - NLD - MUSLIMAID - OXFAM - UK - PLAN INTERNATIONAL UK - SAVE THE CHILDREN - UK - SOLIDARITES <u>Joint management</u> - IFRC-FICR
TOTAL:4,000,000			

<sup>14</sup> ACTIONAID, ARTSEN ZONDER GRENZEN (NLD), CARE INTERNATIONALE UK, CHRISTIAN AID (GBR), CONCERN WORLDWIDE, (IRL), DEUTSCHER CARITASVERBAND e.V, (DEU), FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE, FOLKEKIRKENS NODHJAELP, (FKN), HOPE"87 - HUNDREDS OF ORIGINAL PROJECTS FOR EMPLOYMENT, ISLAMIC RELIEF WORLDWIDE, Muslim Aid, OXFAM (GB), PLAN INTERNATIONAL (UK), SOLIDARITES, (FR), THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND (GBR)

## **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/policies/evaluation/introduction\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/evaluation/introduction_en.htm).

## **8 – Management Issues**

Humanitarian aid Actions funded by the Commission are implemented by NGOs and the Red Cross National Societies on the basis of Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA), by Specialised Agencies of the Member States 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/about/actors/partners\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/about/actors/partners_en.htm).

For NGOs, Specialised Agencies of the Member States, Red Cross National Societies and International Organisations not complying with the requirements set up in the Financial Regulation for joint management, Actions will be managed by direct centralised management. 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.