



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 the Pacific**

(ECHO/-PA/BUD/2009/01000)

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

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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) On the 8 December 2008 high seas and king tides started hitting Papua New Guinea. A few days later, prolonged rainfall caused by tropical depression severely battered Fiji. Consequently, both countries have been affected by floods. On 29 and 30 January heavy floods affected the Solomon Islands.
- (2) There have been serious disruptions of access to basic health services and to clean water, damage to the sewerage systems as well as displacement of people and losses of livelihoods and household possessions.
- (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 centralized management or by joint management.
- (4) For the purposes of this Decision, the Pacific countries involved are Papua New Guinea, Fiji and the Solomon Islands.
- (5) Humanitarian aid Actions financed by this Decision should be of a maximum duration of 6 months.
- (6) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 700,000 from budget article 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Communities is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to over 50,000 people, taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions and other factors. Therefore the activities covered by this

¹ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

Decision may be financed in full in accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation.

- (7) 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 700,000 for emergency humanitarian aid Actions to provide the necessary assistance and relief to the local population affected by floods in the Pacific by using 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 humanitarian Actions under this Decision shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective:
 - To provide multi-sector emergency relief and recovery assistance to victims of floods in Fiji and the Solomon Islands and to victims of tidal waves in Papua New Guinea

The full amount of this Decision 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 1 January 2009.
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 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

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.

Done at Brussels

*For the Commission
Member of the Commission*



Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision
23 02 01

Title: Emergency humanitarian aid for people affected by floods in Fiji and the Solomon Islands and by tidal waves in Papua New Guinea

Location of Action: Pacific

Amount of Decision: EUR 700,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/-PA/BUD/2009/01000

Supporting Document

1 - Rationale, needs and target population.

1.1. - Rationale :

Since 8 December, a combination of very high tides and two tropical depressions in the Pacific caused unusually high seas, affecting low lying islands and coastal regions in 7 provinces in Papua New Guinea (PNG). At the peak of the high seas, an estimated 75,000 people were directly affected by the waves and flooding, spread out over widespread coastal areas and numerous isolated low lying outer islands. The Government of Papua New Guinea (GoPNG) declared a national disaster. Latest inter-agency reports estimate the number of affected population at 40,000, with the bulk of the affected population reported in Manus, East Sepik, New Ireland Provinces and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. Other Provinces that are still partially affected are West Sepik, Madang and Morobe. Food gardens were destroyed and the majority of families lost kitchen utensils. There are still unmet needs, most notably at water and sanitation level since water wells and latrines have been flooded. The National Disaster Centre (NDC), the lead agency, coordinated with Provincial Disaster Centres (PDCs) for relief response, which was supported by the development/humanitarian community and donors. Major response agencies include: government agencies, the PNG Red Cross, national NGOs, CARE, World Vision, Save the Children, Oxfam, ADRA, Caritas and Habitat for Humanity. AusAID supported the relief efforts from the very beginning. Other principal donors include New Zealand AID, USAID and JICA. All response agencies were also involved in undertaking damage and needs assessments. The European

Commission's Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid (DG ECHO) deployed the Rapid Response Coordinator from the Regional Support Office in Bangkok on 25 January 2009.

A few weeks after the episodes in Papua New Guinea, a tropical depression caused prolonged rainfall and eventually flooding incidents in three major divisions of the Fiji, namely Northern, Western and Central Division. The most affected towns are Nadi, Ba and Lautoka in Western Division and Labasa in the Northern Division as well as Navua and Nausori in the Central Division. Due to the floods, some of the roads were closed. Electricity, water and landline telephone communications were disturbed and about 10,000 were evacuated. Health, sanitation and livelihood, as well as the restoration of clean water supply are considered the main challenges. On the 19 January 2009, the Fiji Interim Government launched an appeal to international partners to provide assistance for immediate necessities, specifically in regard to water shortage. There is also a high risk of outbreak of diseases such as Dengue, Typhoid and Leptospiriosis. Moreover, the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) received reports on damages to school infrastructures as well as learning materials. Recent UNICEF assessment has concluded that about 75% of parents affected by the floods will not be able sending their children back to school.

Heavy floods battered the Solomon Islands especially the islands of Guadalcanal and Savo on 29 and 30 January resulting in 10 deaths and causing substantial damage in a number of villages. The worst affected villages on Guadalcanal island are Vatusi, Mataruka, Takaboru, Talangia and Vatupilei. The worst affected villages on Savo island are Pokilo, Bonala, Monago, Kaugele, Reko, Koela, Kuila and Sisiaka. Up to 40,000 people living in the worst affected areas require some level of assistance. The National Disaster Management Office has been active in carrying out and coordinating needs assessments and the Ministry of Health has prepared a comprehensive plan for health intervention covering risks to public health and identifying areas of intervention. UNICEF, CARITAS, Save the Children and the Red Cross family are active on the ground as are a number of church based NGOs.

The information in this funding decision is based on the DG ECHO needs assessment mission together with information from the UN Disaster and Assessment Coordination (UNDAC), UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Aid (OCHA) and Delegations of the European Commission in Papua New Guinea, Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

1.2. - Identified needs :

The assessments indicated needs in the following sectors:

- Water
- Sanitation
- Health
- Non-food items
- Emergency education
- Food
- Shelter materials

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned :

This funding Decision aims to provide assistance to people affected by the floods in 6 provinces in Papua Guinea, namely East Sepik, Madang, Manus, New Ireland, Morobe

Provinces as well as the Autonomous Region of Bougainville as well as to the flooded areas of the Northern, Western and Central Divisions in Fiji and to the people affected by the floods on Guadalcanal and Savo Island in the Solomon Islands.

It is estimated that in Papua New Guinea at least 40,000 people have been affected, most of whom lost their home and have been displaced. In Fiji, where 11 people died, the number of displaced people amounted to 10,000. In the Solomon Islands, 10 people are believed dead as a result of the floods with several thousand directly affected.

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints :

The following risks and constraints should be considered:

- Further floods across the region, which could jeopardise the humanitarian assistance operation
- Access problems, given that the affected areas consist of over numerous islands in the South Pacific Ocean
- Possibility of civil unrest, linked to political tensions in Fiji and problems of access due security reasons in Papua New Guinea.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. - Objectives :

Principal objective: To save and preserve lives during the emergency caused by the floods in Fiji and the Solomon Islands and tidal waves in Papua New Guinea

Specific objectives:

- To provide multi-sector emergency relief and recovery assistance to victims of floods in Fiji and the Solomon Islands and to victims of tidal waves in Papua New Guinea

2.2. - Components :

The funds made available under this Decision will be used to provide multi-sector and relief and recovery assistance to floods victims. In the pursuance of this aim DG ECHO will ensure that relevant national authorities are involved both in the design of the specific project and in the implementing activities.

The main components will be:

- Water: provision of drinking water, including bottled water and rehabilitation of water systems; water containers, tanks, filters and purification tablets
- Sanitation: hygiene promotion, hygiene kits and rehabilitation of latrines and sewerage systems
- Health: medical care and supplies, in the context of outbreaks of diarrhoea, respiratory infections, malaria and dengue. A special focus will be on the prevention and treatment of water borne disease.

- Emergency education: this should include support to traumatised children and assistance to the “back to school” campaign. Distribution of educational materials might be carried out.
- NFI provision: kitchen utilities, blankets, water containers, cloths, mosquito repellents and mosquito nets, plastic sheeting for shelter materials.

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 1 January 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.

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

There have been no previous interventions/Decisions of the Commission within the context of the current crisis.

5 - Overview of donors' contributions

Donors in FIJI/SOLOMON ISLANDS/PAPUA NEW GUINEA 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	20,000				
Germany					
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland					
Italy					
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg					
Malta					
Netherlands					
Poland					
Portugal					
Romania					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain					
Sweden					
United kingdom					
Subtotal	20,000	Subtotal	0	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	20,000		

Dated : 26 January 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 700,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: <i>To save and preserve lives during the emergency caused by the floods in Fiji and the Solomon Islands and tidal waves in Papua New Guinea</i>			
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Potential partners¹
Specific objective 1: To provide multi-sector emergency relief and recovery assistance to victims of floods in Fiji and the Solomon Islands and victims of tidal waves in Papua New Guinea	700,000	Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji.	- CROIX-ROUGE - FRA - IFRC-FICR - OXFAM - UK - SAVE THE CHILDREN - UK - UNICEF - CARE – UK - CARE - DEU
TOTAL: 700,000			

¹ CROIX-ROUGE FRANCAISE, FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE, OXFAM (GB), THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND (GBR), UNICEF

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.

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/about/actors/partners_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.