



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 18.6.2009
COM(2009) XXX final

COMMISSION DECISION

of

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

(ECHO/TJK/BUD/2009/01000)

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

(ECHO/TJK/BUD/2009/01000)

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 aid¹, and in particular Article 2(a) and Article 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Prolonged and heavy rains over April and May of 2009 have caused multiple floods, mudflows, flashfloods, rock-falls and landslides that affected 40 districts and towns throughout Tajikistan with worst affected districts in Khatlon province and in the Rash Valley. According to government estimates, more than 2,000 buildings (houses & social facilities) have been destroyed or severely damaged and 11,000 people directly affected. The Tajik Government launched an appeal for the support of the international community on 18 May.
- (2) The assessment of the humanitarian needs made by DG ECHO² experts leads to the conclusion that external assistance is necessary especially to bring emergency relief to the displaced population estimated at 3,000 composed mostly of women, children and elderly people currently living in the tents and to rehabilitate the water supply systems damaged by the flooding for about 8,000 persons.
- (3) To reach populations in need, humanitarian aid should be channeled through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and International Organisations including United Nations (UN). Therefore the European Commission should implement the budget by direct centralized 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 300,000 from budget article 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Communities is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to over 11,000 persons (internally displaced persons and the most affected populations), taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions and other factors. The activities covered by this Decision may be financed in full accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation.

¹ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

² Directorate-General for humanitarian aid – ECHO

- (6) The present Decision constitutes a financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002³, Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002⁴, and Article 15 of the internal rules on the Implementation of the general budget of the European Communities⁵.

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 300,000 for the financing of emergency humanitarian Actions to provide the necessary assistance and relief to the internal displaced persons and the most affected populations in Tajikistan 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 principal objective of this Decision is:
 - to address the consequences of the May 2009 heavy rains on the most affected populations in Tajikistan.

The humanitarian Actions shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective:

- to improve the living conditions of the most affected population with the supply of non-food items and drinkable water and the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities.

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 18 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

³ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1.

⁴ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1.

⁵ Commission Decision of 5.3.2008, C/2008/773

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 or by 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) 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*



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HUMANITARIAN AID - ECHO

Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision
23 02 01

Title: Provision of humanitarian aid to the population affected by the May 2009 flooding and mudslides in Tajikistan

Location of Action: TAJIKISTAN

Amount of Decision: EUR 300,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/TJK/BUD/2009/01000

Supporting Document

1 - Rationale, needs and target population.

1.1. - Rationale :

Prolonged and heavy rains over April and May of 2009 (in particular on 21 April, 8 May and 14 May) have caused multiple floods, mudflows, flashfloods, rock-falls and landslides that affected 40 districts and towns throughout Tajikistan with worst affected districts in Khatlon and Directly Ruled Districts (DRD) provinces.

According to government estimates, more than 2,000 buildings (houses & social facilities) have been destroyed or severely damaged and 11,000 people directly affected. At least 26 people are reported to be killed by these disasters including 10 children. The damage to transport and agricultural infrastructure includes over 500 km of roads, 83 bridges and 260 km of irrigational canals completely or partially damaged.

The agriculture sector has been badly affected, whereby crop plantations (wheat, vegetable, potato, cotton etc) are severely damaged. The government reports more than 3,000 livestock killed. According to the Ministry of Agriculture more than 14,000 hectares of agriculture lands were flooded. More than 150 km of irrigation networks are filled with mud and out of function.

According to DG ECHO⁶ partners, numerous locations are blocked and not accessible in the Rasht Valley, a part of the DRD province, where at least 14 bridges and major rural roads have been reported to be fully or partially destroyed resulting in a cut-off of people's access to market places and other vital economic points. In the same province, 8,000 persons are reported as no longer having access to pipe water as 38 water supply systems have been damaged.

These disasters occur in a country which is the poorest of the former Soviet republics. 53% of the population is living below the poverty line, on less than USD 1.33 per person per day, 17% of whom are considered extremely poor subsisting on less than 85 cents a day. Tajikistan is ranked 122nd out of 177 on the UN Human Development Index.

In addition, natural disasters such as earthquakes, landslides, mudflows, avalanches, and floods occur regularly in Tajikistan. These last years, the country has been facing a lot of crises such as the cold wave at the beginning of 2008, the agricultural commodities soaring prices and the energy crisis in 2008 and a significant decrease in the remittances coming from other Eastern European countries in 2009 due to the world economic crisis.

On 18 May, after the situation had been deteriorated by the floods, the Government of Tajikistan called for international relief and assistance and on 22 May, the International Federation of Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies (IFRC) decided to launch an emergency international appeal for EUR 589,938.

1.2. - Identified needs :

The identified needs listed hereafter are mainly based on the REACT⁷ and DG ECHO experts field assessments on what is still needed to be provided at the end of May 2009.

Non-food items

The provision of non-food items is still needed for the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and concerns kitchen sets, battery lamps, mosquito nets, beds, mattresses, blankets and hygiene sets for about 3,000 persons.

In addition to that, provision of hoes, shovels and hammers to the displaced persons is also required in order to support them in the reconstruction of their new houses on lands provided by the government.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

The emergency provision of safe drinking water and essential sanitation facilities to tent camps such as latrines, temporary showers and hygiene education among affected families (3,000 persons) is urgently needed to prevent the spread of communicable diseases in these camps. Interventions should particularly focus on the provision of showers and washing areas, establishment of latrines in the tent camp, provision of safe drinking water, purification

⁶ Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid - DG

⁷ REACT (Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team) which published on 23 May the overview of Damage and need. This report is available on <http://www.untj.org/?c=7&id=292> :

tablets and filters to prevent outbreak of water borne diseases and hygiene education campaign.

Rehabilitation of water systems

According to REACT and the NGO German Agro Action (GAA) estimates, 38 water systems in the DRD have been damaged by the floods and at least 8,000 persons have no longer access to drinkable water. The rehabilitation of these systems is urgent in order to avoid the development of water diseases.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned :

3,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in the Khalton province who will benefit from the provision of non-food items and water, sanitation and hygiene activities.

At least 8,000 persons will benefit from the rehabilitation of the water systems.

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints :

The reconstruction of houses for the IDPs could take longer than the 6 months foreseen. If this is the case, a solution should be found to shelter these persons during the winter time or to terminate the construction of their new houses before winter.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. - Objectives :

Principal objective:

To address the consequences of the May 2009 heavy rains on the most affected populations in Tajikistan.

Specific objective:

To improve the living conditions of the most affected population with the supply of non-food items and drinkable water and the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities.

2.2. - Components :

- 1) Provision of non-food items to the IDPs including tools kits for the reconstruction of their house.
- 2) Water supply, sanitation operation and hygiene education for the IDPs.
- 3) Rehabilitation of the water systems.

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 18 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.

5 - Overview of donors' contributions

Donors in TAJIKISTAN 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	2,524,028				
Greece	100,000				
Hungary					
Ireland					
Italy	100,000				
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg	114,353				
Malta					
Netherlands					
Poland					
Portugal					
Romania					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain					
Sweden					
United kingdom					
Subtotal	2,838,381	Subtotal	0	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	2,838,381		

Dated : 29 May 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 300,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: <i>to address the consequences of the May 2009 heavy rains on the most affected populations in Tajikistan</i>			
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Potential partners⁸
Specific objective 1: to improve the living conditions of the most affected population with the supply of non-food items and drinkable water and the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities	300,000	Khalton province Directly Rules Districts province	<u>Direct centralised management</u> - GERMAN AGRO ACTION - SAVE THE CHILDREN - NLD <u>Joint management</u> - IFRC-FICR
TOTAL:300,000			

⁸ DEUTSCHE WELTHUNGERHILFE e.V., FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE, SAVE THE CHILDREN (NLD)

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.