



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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COMMISSION DECISION

of

**on the financing of primary emergency humanitarian actions in Central America from
the general budget of the European Union**

(ECHO/-CM/BUD/2010/01000)

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on the financing of primary emergency humanitarian actions in Central America from the general budget of the European Union

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

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) Tropical Storm Agatha and related floods and landslides have affected several countries in Central America;
- (2) Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras have been most hit, with more the one hundred thousands of people affected, some of whom have been evacuated to temporary shelter;
- (3) In Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras the floods and landslides related to Tropical Storm Agatha claimed the lives of 99 people and a state of emergency was declared on 29 May 2010 in Guatemala and El Salvador and on 30 May 2010 in Honduras. Guatemala and Honduras have requested international assistance;
- (4) At present, only preliminary information is available about the damage caused by the Tropical Storm Agatha but drinking water and sewerage systems have been affected and primary and secondary roads and bridges are blocked, damaged or destroyed restricting access to affected areas is reported;
- (5) 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;
- (6) Humanitarian aid actions financed by this Decision should be of a maximum duration of 3 months;
- (7) For the purposes of this Decision the Central American countries involved are Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras;
- (8) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 3,000,000 from budget article 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable population affected by the Tropical Depression Agatha, taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions and other factors. The

¹ 1- OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

activities covered by this Decision may be financed in full in accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation;

- (9) 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 Union⁴.

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 3,000,000 for the financing of primary emergency humanitarian actions in Central America from budget article 23 02 01 of the 2010 general budget of the European Union.
2. In accordance with Article 2(a) of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the principal objective of this Decision is to save and preserve lives in the emergency caused by Tropical Storm Agatha in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. The humanitarian actions shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective:
 - To assist the victims of Tropical Storm Agatha and related floods and landslides in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras with integrated relief and early recovery assistance

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 29 May 2010. 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 three 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.

² 2- OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1.

³ 3- OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, , p.1.

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

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 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 Financial Administrative Framework Agreement with the UN (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
Peter Zangl, Director General



Primary Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision 23 02 01

Title: Commission decision on the financing of primary emergency humanitarian Actions in Central America from the general budget of the European Union

Description: Primary Emergency humanitarian aid for people affected by Tropical Storm Agatha in Central America

Location of action: CENTRAL AMERICA

Amount of Decision: EUR 3,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/-CM/BUD/2010/01000

Supporting document

1 Humanitarian context, needs and risks

1.1 Situation and context

Since the 24th of May, a low pressure system developed and advanced slowly along the Nicaraguan Pacific Coast towards the North. On 27th of May, the system was located off the coasts of Guatemala and El Salvador. During the morning of 29th of May, it evolved into a Tropical Storm (AGATHA), the first Tropical Storm of the 2010 season in the Pacific. The Tropical Storm hit the mainland on Saturday the 29th of May at 5.00 PM in Guatemala, causing damage to the coastal areas. The Tropical Storm subsequently weakened and was downgraded to a Tropical Depression (29th of May during the night) and into a low pressure system (30th of May). However, it is still causing heavy rains in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, where further rains are expected during the next 24 hours.

1.2 Identified humanitarian needs

The Tropical Storm Agatha has created an urgent need for shelter, food and water supplies, non-food items and logistics assistance.

1.3 Risk assessment and possible constraints

The damage caused by the tropical storm to infrastructure (roads, bridges, telecommunications etc) may negatively impact access to beneficiaries and affected areas.

2 Proposed DG ECHO response

2.1 Rationale

All departments in Guatemala are reported in emergency, the most-affected 11 departments being Chimaltenango, Solola, Suchitepequez, San Marcos, Quiche, Guatemala, Escuintla, Retalhuleu, Quetzaltenango, Zacapa and Izabal. Chimaltenango and Guatemala departments are reporting the highest human losses.

In Guatemala more than 100,000 people have been evacuated and about 29,000 are reported to be sheltered. According to CONRED, there are more than 3,000 houses damaged and 21,465 people are at risk of different hazards.

Drinking water and sewerage systems are damaged / blocked, and primary and secondary roads and bridges are blocked, damaged or destroyed, restricting access to affected areas.

Moreover, on Thursday 27th of May, the Pacaya volcano had erupted and caused damages in the surrounding areas in Guatemala City (located 30 km to the North); 1,924 were evacuated (1,865 in shelters). The international airport of La Aurora in Guatemala has been closed since then. However, the volcano has since decreased its activities and is returning to normal (INSIVUMEH)

Some areas in El Salvador have reported rainfall accumulations of more than 400 mm. 773 sites are identified of high landslide risks; DGPC noted that 780,000 might be at risk of flooding along the coastal strip. The most affected departments are San Vicente, San Salvador, La Libertad, Sonsonate and Ahuachapan. Preliminary data states that 6 people persons have died, about 8,147 persons have been evacuated and about 5,000 persons are reported to be sheltered in 87 shelters (with the rest integrated into host families). According to the authorities 90 % of the country is at risk if the rain continues.

Data on destroyed houses is still not available as assessments are ongoing and the situation is permanently changing. Landslides are being reported from all the territory, especially from Ahuachapán and Cuscatlán. There are various areas within the country with thousands of people blocked due to landslides.

80 Health units are reported to be at risk and 9 have already been affected. Damage to national agriculture, such as coffee plantations has not been evaluated yet.

The President of Honduras declared a Red Alert for the following departments: Choluteca, Valle, el Distrito Central en Francisco Morazan, Cortes, Yoro (Municipality of El Progreso)

The Government (COPECO) reported 8 deaths, 9 disappeared, 2,484 affected people, 2,556 people evacuated (2,295 are in shelters), 358 *manzanas* of crops (252 ha) destroyed and major damage to infrastructure and water systems. 505 houses have been partially destroyed and 51 are completely destroyed.

The most affected areas are the Regions 1 (Copan, Santa Barbara, Comayagua, Cortes and Yoro), 4 (Francisco Morazan, El Paraiso, Valle, Choluteca, La Paz) and 5 (Intibuca, Lempira, Ocotepeque).

2.2 Objectives

- Principal objective: To save and preserve lives in the emergency caused by Tropical Storm Agatha in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

- Specific objectives:

- To assist the victims of Tropical Storm Agatha and related floods and landslides in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras with integrated relief and early recovery assistance

2.3 Components

- emergency food assistance
- water and sanitation
- access to primary health care and disease control
- distribution of non-food items
- emergency rehabilitation of shelter
- logistics

2.4 Complementarity and coordination with other EU services, donors and institutions

(See table 3 in annex)

2.5 Duration

The duration for the implementation of this Decision shall be 3 months.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 29 May 2010.

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.

3 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 Union 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.

4 Management Issues

Humanitarian aid actions funded by the European Union 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 Financial Administrative Framework Agreement with the UN (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 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 applicable to the general budget of the European Union 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.

5 Annexes

Annex 1 - Summary decision matrix (table)

Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Potential partners ¹
To assist the victims of Tropical Storm Agatha and related floods and landslides in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras with integrated relief and early recovery assistance	3,000,000	Location: Affected areas in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras	<u>Direct centralised management</u> - ACH- ESP - CARE - FR - CARITAS - ESP - COOPI - CROIX-ROUGE - ESP - CROIX-ROUGE - NLD - MEDICO INTERNATIONAL - OIKOS - OXFAM - BEL - PLAN INTERNATIONAL UK - SAH <u>Joint management</u> - IFRC-FICR - IOM - UNDP-PNUD - UNICEF - WFP-PAM
Contingency reserve	0		
TOTAL	3,000,000		

¹ ACCION CONTRA EL HAMBRE, (ESP),CARE FRANCE, (FR),CARITAS ESPANOLA, (E),COOPERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE (ITA),CRUZ ROJA ESPAÑOLA, (E),FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE,HET NEDERLANDSE RODE KRUIS (NLD),INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (INT),MEDICO INTERNATIONAL, (DEU),OIKOS - COOPERAÇÃO E DESENVOLVIMENTO,OXFAM-Solidarite(it), (BEL),PLAN INTERNATIONAL (UK),Schweizerisches Arbeiterhilfswerk, UNICEF, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

Annex 2 - List of previous DG ECHO decisions

List of previous DG ECHO operations in GUATEMALA*HONDURAS*EL SALVADOR

Decision Number	Decision Type	2008 EUR	2009 EUR	2010 EUR
ECHO/-AM/BUD/2008/01000 (*)	Ad hoc	270,000		
ECHO/-CM/BUD/2008/01000 (*)	Emergency	1,170,000		
ECHO/-FA/BUD/2008/01000 (*)	Ad hoc	1,000,000		
ECHO/DIP/BUD/2008/03000 (*)	Ad hoc	5,635,000		
ECHO/DRF/BUD/2008/01000 (*)	Ad hoc	15,866		
ECHO/-CM/BUD/2009/01000 (*)	Emergency		800,000	
ECHO/GTM/BUD/2009/01000	Ad hoc		1,325,000	
ECHO/DIP/BUD/2010/03000 (*)	Ad hoc			7,485,000
	Subtotal	8,090,866	2,125,000	7,485,000
	TOTAL	17,700,866		

Date : 31/05/2010

Source : HOPE

(*) decisions with more than one country

Annex 3 - Overview table of the humanitarian donor contributions

Donors in GUATEMALA*HONDURAS*EL SALVADOR over the last 12 months			
1. EU Member States (*)		2. European Commission	
	EUR		EUR
Austria	200,000	DG ECHO	9,610,000
Czech Republic	72,000		
Estonia	44,738		
Finland	366,000		
Germany	439,466		
Greece	50,000		
Ireland	200,000		
Italy	900,323		
Luxembourg	235,000		
Netherlands	100,000		
Portugal	69,410		
Sweden	1,431,518		
Subtotal	4,108,455	Subtotal	9,610,000
TOTAL	13,718,455		

Date : 31/05/2010

(*) Source : DG ECHO 14 Points reports. <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hac>

Empty cells : no information or no contribution.