



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels
C(2010) XXX final

COMMISSION DECISION

of

**on the financing of humanitarian actions in Central America from the general budget of
the European Union (Seventh DIPECHO Action Plan)
(ECHO/DIP/BUD/2010/03000)**

COMMISSION DECISION

of

on the financing of humanitarian Actions in Central America¹ from the general budget of the European Union (Seventh DIPECHO² Action Plan) (ECHO/DIP/BUD/2010/03000)

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 aid³, and in particular Article 2(f), Article 4 and Articles 15(2) and 15(3) thereof;

Whereas:

- (1) Central America is one of the most disaster prone regions in the world, in terms of recurrence of hazards and their severity and scope, particularly floods, flash floods, cyclones, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, drought and forest fires;
- (2) Local communities are particularly vulnerable to all these disasters, and the losses they cause are significant both in social and economic terms;
- (3) The capacities of Central American countries to cope with the disasters are insufficient considering the great impact of disaster events on the population and international intervention is needed to support preparedness and small-scale mitigation actions;
- (4) These countries currently rely on international assistance to promote disaster risk reduction, risk management and preparedness activities;
- (5) To reach populations in need, humanitarian aid should be channelled through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and International Organisations including United Nations (UN) agencies and Member States Specialised Agencies. Therefore, the European Commission should implement the budget by direct centralized management or by joint management;
- (6) Experience from the previous and ongoing DIPECHO Action Plans implemented in the region, as well as national and regional consultations carried out, led to the conclusion that disaster preparedness projects should be financed by the Union for a period of 18 months;
- (7) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 10,000,000 from budget article 23 02 03 of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide disaster preparedness activities (including public awareness measures) to cover 800,000 vulnerable people, taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions and other factors. Although as a general rule Actions funded by this Decision should be co-financed, the

¹ Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama

² "Disaster Preparedness ECHO"

³ 1- OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

Authorising officer, in accordance with Article 253 of the Implementation rules of the Financial Regulation may agree to the full financing of Actions.

- (8) For the purpose of this Decision the Central American countries involved are Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama.
- (9) Notwithstanding the implementation period laid down in Article 2, and the conditionality of this Decision upon the availability of funds laid down in Article 4, it is necessary to adopt it without delay with a view to launch the calls for expression of interest required for its implementation;
- (10) The present Decision constitutes a financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002⁴, Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002⁵, and Article 15 of the internal rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Union⁶;
- (11) In accordance with Articles 17(2) and 17(3) of Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996, the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave favourable opinions on 4 February 2010.

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 10,000,000 for the financing of disaster preparedness actions in Central America from budget article 23.02.03 of the 2010 general budget of the European Union.
2. In accordance with Article 2(f) and 4 of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the principal objective of this Decision is to reduce the vulnerability and increase the coping capacities of Central America populations living in areas most affected by natural hazards. The humanitarian Actions shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective:
 - To contribute to increasing resilience and contribute to reducing vulnerability of local communities and institutions through support to strategies that enable them to better prepare for, mitigate and respond to natural disasters

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 1 September 2010 and shall run for 18 months. Eligible expenditure shall be committed during the implementing period of the Decision.

⁴ 2- OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1.

⁵ 3- OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, , p.1.

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

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. As a general rule, Actions funded by this Decision should be co-financed.
The Authorising Officer, in accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules, may agree to the full financing of Actions when this will be necessary to achieve the objectives of this Decision and with due consideration to the nature of the activities to be undertaken, the availability of other donors and other relevant operational circumstances.
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, International organisations or Member States' specialized agencies.
3. The Commission shall implement the budget:
 - either by direct centralised management, with Non-governmental Organisations and with Member States' specialised agencies;
 - 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 will take effect on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
Member of the Commission



Humanitarian Aid Decision

23 02 03

Title: Commission Decision on the financing of humanitarian actions in Central America from the general budget of the European Union (Seventh DIPECHO Action Plan)

Location of operation: Central America (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama)

Amount of Decision: EUR 10,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/DIP/BUD/2010/03000

Supporting Document

1 - Rationale needs and target population.

1.1 Rationale:

Central America is considered one of the most disaster prone regions in the world, in terms of recurrence of hazards, their severity and scope and the significant potential for major disasters.

Hydro-meteorological events have been predominant over the last years, where floods have affected more than 2.2 million people since 1990. Over the same period, more than 5 million people have been hit by windstorms, most notoriously by Hurricanes Mitch¹, Stan² and Felix in 1998, 2005 and 2007 respectively. Hydro-meteorological events are the cause of 82% of the total of human lives lost caused by all types of disasters over the period 1990-2009³ in the region. The number of droughts, a slow-onset disaster, affected over 1.5 million people in the past nineteen years⁴.

Geological events and more specifically earthquakes generate the most significant economic losses. For example, the two earthquakes which hit El Salvador in 2001 affected a total of

¹ Hurricane Mitch is a benchmark in Central America's recent disaster history.

² In Guatemala alone, Hurricane Stan caused damage of over EUR 800,000,000 (equivalent to more than 3% of GDP) and affected to 0.5 million people (4% of the population).

³ Source: CRED (Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disaster)

⁴ DG ECHO responded to the drought of 2001-2002 through 4 decisions which amounted to EUR 6,820,000.
ECHO/DIP/BUD/2010/03000

1.5 million people⁵.

Finally, deforestation is a frequent problem, and events such as the El Niño phenomenon aggravate its consequences. The drought induced by the El Niño phenomenon in 1997-1998 caused losses of forests (due to fires) corresponding to four years of deforestation⁶.

Recent studies have shown that despite the many efforts made in the region, disasters have increased gradually over the last thirty years and affect 5% of annual GDP⁷.

Central America also experiences frequent small-scale events⁸ affecting relatively few communities, but which recurrently undermine the fragile livelihoods of those affected. According to CRED, 129 small scale events have been registered during 1990-2009. These events represent 40 % of the total number of disasters in the region.

In 2003, a global evaluation on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)⁹ was carried out in several regions to identify the risks, evaluate the socio-economic vulnerability of the people and determine what local, national and regional response capability and external support was already in place. Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala were ranked at a very high level of disaster risk. Certain regions of Costa Rica and of Panama can also be included in this category.

Even though the countries in the region have at their disposal national legislations that are incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) concerns, the full implementation of these legislations is still lacking due not only to financial constraints but also to the lack of clear prioritisation of these concerns by the national authorities and other development stakeholders.

Consequently the ability of these countries to cope with disasters is most of the time extremely weak, particularly at local level where many communities and local institutions lack awareness, knowledge, expertise, resources and formal mandate. In such a scenario, the lack of resilience of populations, institutions, basic services (commonly ruptured during natural disasters) and other infrastructure result in vulnerabilities and losses (both in lives and assets lost) that in many instances could be mitigated or avoided by simple preventive measures. In the very first hours and days of a disaster, the population at risks are the best placed and the only ones to be able to respond and save their lives and properties. It may take days and even weeks before national or international aid is provided in situ in all the affected places notably in the most remote and difficult to access areas. By helping people to help themselves, disaster preparedness should be seen as the first response instrument. All recent disasters should be used as opportunities to raise the awareness of all the relevant stakeholders to the importance of improving their DRR policies.

The experience gained during the implementation of the six DIPECHO Action Plans for Central America (1998-2010) is very significant and diversified. For example, in September 2007 Hurricane Felix made landfall in Sandy Bay, Nicaragua, where a DIPECHO project was being implemented. Community emergency committees had been formed and trained in emergency procedures, and had received communication equipment. This enabled the community to respond, and no lives were lost in the community despite the severity of the

⁵ DG ECHO responded to these earthquakes through 3 decisions which amounted to EUR 10,500,000.

⁶ According to CCAD (Comisión Centroamericana para el Ambiente y el Desarrollo), the losses of forests in Central America during 1997-1998 amount to 1.5 million hectares.

⁷ CIESA, conclusions of the Mitch + 5 Forum (November 2003).

⁸ An event is considered of small-scale when it affects less than 10,000 people following CRED database.

⁹ December 2003, Evaluation of DG ECHO's strategic orientation to disaster reduction available on DG ECHO's Web site: http://ec.europa.eu/echo/pdf_files/evaluation/2003/disaster_report.pdf
ECHO/DIP/BUD/2010/03000

material damage caused by the hurricane. Similar examples occurred during Hurricane Stan in 2005, in San Marcos (Guatemala) and the Jiboa river basin (El Salvador). Moreover, the Early Warning System developed in Nicaragua under several Action Plans in response to volcanic risk has been adopted as a model by the Civil Defence.

The Priorities for Action of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)¹⁰ 2005–2015: "*Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*"¹¹ together with the European Commission Communication on DRR of February 2009 to the Council and the European Parliament¹² as the *EU strategy for supporting Disaster Risk Reduction in developing countries*, provide the strategic logic underlying the Seventh DIPECHO Action Plan for Central America.

In April 2005 the European Commission, in its Communication "*Reinforcing EU Disaster and Crisis Response in third countries*",¹³ addressed the issue of enhancing preparedness and response to disasters. The document also considers the Hyogo Framework for Action as the starting point of its strategy¹⁴.

Finally, the European Commission in its Communication on "*Towards a European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid*"¹⁵ also expressed its commitment to further promote disaster preparedness by:

- promoting international efforts within the Hyogo Framework for Action to increase coping capacities at local, regional and national level through strategic planning and action;
- mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in humanitarian and development operations and ensure that adequate EU funding is made available for disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities;
- establishing an overall EU policy approach to support action in this area.

1.2. – Identified needs:

The high risk levels in certain countries and regions of Central America arise for a great part from the exposure to natural threats and from the vulnerabilities connected with all types of factors: economic, social, cultural, environmental, etc. The risk level in this region also arises from significant weaknesses in the response capacity, defined as the level of resources, the way in which the communities use these resources, and the capacity of these communities to cope with the unfavourable consequences of a disaster.

Needs assessment in terms of preparedness has been an ongoing process in the Central American region. After six DIPECHO Action Plans covering the region and in order to take

¹⁰ <http://www.unisdr.org>

¹¹ The 5 priorities for action are: 1. Ensure that DRR is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation; 2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning; 3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels; 4. Reduce the underlying risk factors; 5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

¹² COM (2009)84, 23 February 2009.

¹³ COM (2005) 153, 20 April 2005.

¹⁴ Such as integrating disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and into programmes in countries that have been affected by disaster; strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels that can build resilience to hazards and disaster preparedness both inside and outside the EU; development of people-centred early warning, better management and exchange of information on risks and protection, education and training; identifying, assessing and monitoring disaster risks, enhancing early warning; reducing the underlying risk factors.

¹⁵ COM(2007)317

stock of the lessons learned from previous projects, DG ECHO will drive an extensive consultation process that will be undertaken in January/February 2010 in Central America, involving over 400 DRR experts representing DIPECHO partners, relevant national authorities, scientific community, other EC services and local and international organisations. Notably, four national consultative meetings, as well as one regional seminar, will be held to prepare the ground for the Seventh DIPECHO Action Plan. Besides offering to the main stakeholders the possibility for a disaster preparedness dialogue that in many countries had hitherto been lacking, this consultation process will allow – as it has been in the past – concrete priorities to be drawn up for the countries targeted by this action plan.

Disaster preparedness capacities at community level are generally weak or non-existent, except in those areas targeted by previous DIPECHO action plans and by the few similar initiatives sponsored by NGO private funds. DIPECHO has been one of the few programmes to focus on community interventions and has covered approximately 10% of the Central American municipalities through the six previous action plans. In practical terms, this means that still the majority of the Central American local emergency committees lack the infrastructure and equipment required to manage disaster response in their respective jurisdictions. Within the existing local emergency committees, technical capacities related to specific areas of disaster preparedness remain weak, such as management of emergency aid, damage and needs assessment and shelter management. Essential information (alerts, damage and needs assessments) does not flow between all actors at all levels. Coordination among governmental levels (municipal, departmental, national) remains weak. Confusion and misinformation persists in the vulnerable population in terms of what to do in case of disaster. In the few cases where mitigation works exist, they are extremely weak and are not receiving adequate maintenance by the municipal authorities. The same applies to the early warning systems: critical information is not being effectively and efficiently communicated to municipal authorities and communities in the few minor river basins and volcanoes where some hazard monitoring equipment exists. Finally, all the assessments confirm the need to work harder on the standardisation, compilation and distribution of best practices at national and regional levels, since numerous good practices of previous experiences have never been replicated in other locations facing similar problems.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

The Seventh DIPECHO Action Plan will target the most vulnerable local communities and their institutions involved in risk reduction in El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. Furthermore, regional programming could take into account the whole of Central America.

It is estimated that approximately 800.000 people will benefit directly from the Seventh Action Plan.

In all countries and in relevant projects, multi-hazard approaches will be encouraged. DG ECHO will continue to promote the joint initiatives of its partners in each country. Enhanced and timely emergency response capacity of local organisations and Red Cross volunteers can also be supported through, for example, pre-positioning of stocks wherever the conditions of accountability in stock management are appropriate and ensured.

Partners will be encouraged again to build synergies with development programmes funded by the EC and other donors which target the same geographical areas.

The hazards prioritised by this action plan will be identified during the consultative process organised in the region during January/February 2010 and will take into account the following considerations:

El Salvador: Priority will be given to the following hazards: *floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes*. Areas at risk of *drought* may also be targeted, and in general, multi-hazard approaches will be encouraged. DIPECHO will look both at consolidation of previous actions, in particular in relation to floods and landslides and at scaling up on *urban risk reduction* actions in other cities of the country.

Guatemala: Priority will be given to the following hazards: *earthquakes, forest fires, floods, landslides and drought*. DG ECHO expects to consolidate the work done on *urban risk reduction* in other cities of the country. Areas at risk of *volcanic eruptions* may also be targeted.

Honduras: Priority will be given to hydro-meteorological hazards such as *floods, hurricanes and droughts*. *Landslides* triggered by torrential rains will also be prioritised. Recent *earthquakes* that took place in the country justify also the prioritisation of this hitherto unknown hazard in Honduras. Considering the high vulnerability of the metropolitan area of Tegucigalpa, special consideration will be given to projects targeting *urban risk reduction*.

Nicaragua: Priority will be given to hydro-meteorological events such as *hurricanes and floods*. *Landslides*, whether triggered by torrential rains or by seismic activity, will also be prioritised. Areas at risk of *drought and tsunamis* may also be targeted. DG ECHO would like to consolidate the coverage of the EWS model for *volcanic eruptions* already in place. *Earthquake* scenarios in *urban areas* may also be taken into consideration. Due to the exposure of Nicaragua to all kinds of natural threats, multi-hazard approaches will be encouraged.

Costa Rica and Panama: Priority will be given to hydro-meteorological events such as *hurricanes, floods and landslides* triggered by torrential rains. Although Costa Rica and Panama are not as vulnerable as Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras or Nicaragua, DG ECHO may fund operations in these two countries as long as they are innovative and have the potential to be replicated in the above-mentioned four countries. Furthermore, as members of Central America Centre for Disaster Prevention (CEPREDENAC), Costa Rica and Panama could be usefully included in any programme having a regional dimension.

Regional actions: covering the six Central American countries will be considered. Regional components will, however, concentrate on networking, information management, training, communication and awareness raising as well as compilation and dissemination of lessons learned, and harmonisation of approaches related to different issues (Urban Risk, Early Warning Systems, National Disaster Risk Reduction Platforms, Disaster Risk Reduction indicators, etc). Regional projects will have to propose specific actions linking regional and local (community) levels and thus ensuring feedback between the two. Furthermore, these initiatives should closely link with the CEPREDENAC's Disaster Risk Reduction Regional Plan for 2006-2015, the Central American Policy for Integral Disaster Risk Management (PCGIR)¹⁶ which basis were defined during the Mitch +10 forum and the HFA 2005-2015.

In addition to the target populations in local communities mentioned above, the Seventh Action Plan will also seek to specifically target the following groups:

¹⁶ Components of the PCGIR:

a) Disaster Risk Reduction and sustainable economic development, b) Development and social compensation to reduce vulnerability, c) Environment and climate change, d) Governance, e) Disaster Management and Recovery.

Children, youth volunteers and students / women's groups / disabled / ethnic minorities / teachers / trainers / Government officials at all levels / local disaster management committees / Red Cross and Red Crescent members and volunteers / local non-government organisations, civil society associations, private sector / representatives of media / general public: several million persons will be addressed through public campaigns.

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints:

As the majority of the proposed activities have a community orientation, their success depends on the desire for cooperation of the identified communities. Moreover, the disaster preparedness projects depend on the link that the partners establish with the competent local authorities, which have to be involved in the project from the beginning, in order to make sure that the objectives are achieved and the results are sustainable. Such dependence on support and collaboration with local institutional structures carries the risk that anticipated cooperation/support/political commitment fails to meet expectations. However, in terms of long-term sustainability, this link is crucial.

In order to maximise the possibility of success in achieving the project objectives, DG ECHO will take account, in the selection, both of prospective partners' experience in disaster preparedness programmes and their operational presence (their own or that one of their implementing partners) in the target location (thereby providing a pre-existing working relationship with local communities and local authorities).

In addition, as a region with frequent natural hazards; the likelihood that disasters will occur during the Seventh Action Plan is high, as experienced during previous Action Plans. Such events could cause delays in implementation as DIPECHO ongoing projects could be de-prioritised in favour of emergency/humanitarian actions that may also impose a considerable workload on partners' human resources not only on the spot but also in the region. Furthermore, the disaster itself may prevent access to target beneficiaries and/or locations. Apart from potential large disasters, the frequency and scale of recurrent small and medium natural disasters may strain the capacities of local communities, authorities and government.

In all countries, electoral calendars have often slowed down the implementation during the electoral campaigns. Once new administrations are in place, they require renewed training and awareness raising measures for newly appointed counterparts. Disrupted linkages between authority levels, but also ongoing decentralisation processes, can also create challenges for capacity-building and scaling up measures.

While the region has a comprehensive pool of DRR expertise, it is often difficult to find a sufficient number of specialists, especially in the present context where demand has considerably increased for such knowledge. A substantial amount of effort and time is therefore often invested by the partners to train their personnel or the personnel of their co-implementing agencies.

The current political situation in Central America is stable in general except in Honduras where the political crisis initiated in June 2009 is still ongoing. As a breakdown in political stability in any of the six countries concerned could affect the implementation of operations financed under this Decision, the situation in Honduras will be closely followed in order to orient better the actions in this country in the framework of the Seventh Action Plan.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. - Objectives:

Principal objective:

To reduce the vulnerability and increase the coping capacities of Central America populations living in areas most affected by natural hazards.

Specific objectives:

To contribute to increasing resilience and contribute to reducing vulnerability of local communities and institutions through support to strategies that enable them to better prepare for, mitigate and respond to natural disasters.

2.2. - Components:

Programme strategies which receive DIPECHO support will be developed in the context of existing relevant legislation and decrees and will contribute to existing/planned National Disaster Management Plans and Policies (including the implementation of the HFA 2005-2015 and the implementation of Central American Policy for Integral Risk Management (PCGIR) led by CEPREDENAC). They will also be implemented in conjunction with the appropriate institutions of national governments at all relevant levels (local, sub-national, national); sector line ministries, finance or planning ministries, the National Disaster Management Office of each country, or others. Coordination is established with the national systems from the design phase in order to ensure their empowerment.

In pursuance of the above objective, DG ECHO will pay particular attention to cross cutting issues and DIPECHO projects that will be funded will include one or several of the following components:

Sectors and sub-sectors of intervention:

- a) Local disaster management components, targeting local actors in disaster prone areas: early warning systems, mapping and data computerisation, local capacity-building, training.

Examples of possible eligible activities:

- Development and setting up of early warning systems through local structures, adapting or developing user-friendly and locally-appropriate systems; training of the beneficiaries through simulation exercises, mock drills, dry-run rehearsals etc.
- Mapping and data computerisation through local actors, linked with the study of hazards and vulnerabilities and the establishment of emergency plans.
- Capacity building and training of natural disaster management committees (including preparedness and response) at local level, with direct involvement of the beneficiary communities; development and management of community disaster preparedness action plans; integration of such plans into economic plans at the proper administrative level; simulation and evacuation exercises; training of trainers, community facilitators, fire brigades and other response groups.

- b) Institutional linkages, targeting institutions involved in disaster management/ disaster risk reduction, in particular at regional, national and sub-national levels: advocacy, facilitation of coordination, institutional strengthening

Examples of possible eligible activities:

- Communication activities aimed at raising awareness on DRR.
- Coordinated and collaborative national programming for disaster risk reduction, particularly amongst DRR fora.

- Joint strategy formulation and programming, through joint project proposals, establishment of common indicators and measurement systems, joint identification of categories of beneficiaries, joint events and activities.
 - Technical studies, workshops and surveys to increase knowledge about preparedness issues and dissemination of results.
 - Facilitating co-ordination; support of existing networks, institutions working on DRR and notably preparedness and response.
 - Strengthening of institutional capacities on DRR; training of decision-makers on the HFA.
 - Supporting the establishment of regional centres or regional and national platforms active in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction
- c) Information, Education, Communication, targeting direct and indirect beneficiaries: awareness raising among the general public, education and dissemination
Examples of possible eligible activities:
- Radio spots, radio communication actions at various levels; TV broadcasts; media interaction with newspapers, journals, magazines; training of journalists and media students.
 - Production of joint innovative Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials; dissemination of good existing IEC materials.
 - Conferences, symposia, seminars, workshops, peer-to-peer awareness initiatives.
 - Awareness campaigns among the general public as well as targeted groups, simulation exercises and mock drills.
 - Activities aimed at creating a “culture of prevention” within the formal education system pursuing a change of attitude and practice; design, production or update of training materials for pupils; dissemination of good existing materials; training of teachers and pupils, and parents; simulations conducted at school level, school competitions.
- d) Small scale infrastructure and services, at community level: infrastructure support and mitigation works, reinforcing critical infrastructure, operation and maintenance systems; non structural mitigation activities
Examples of possible eligible activities:
- Provision of equipment and reinforcement of infrastructure to support disaster preparedness plans; scientific equipment; rehabilitation of evacuation routes; refurbishment of health posts; temporary shelter for evacuated populations and sign-posting of evacuation routes.
 - Small-scale infrastructure works aimed at reducing the physical vulnerability of the beneficiaries, complementing the preparedness component of the project strategy; training on operation and maintenance systems; provision of knowledge and tools for replication of measures in neighbouring communities or for integration into local development plans.
 - Protection walls along river banks; structural works on existing public buildings to increase their resistance to disasters; identification and reinforcement of safe places; reforestation/plantation; small-scale drainage; and irrigation works.
 - Non structural mitigation measures.
- e) Stock-building of emergency and relief items: targeting the reinforcement of the response capacity of local actors and institutions in disaster-prone areas in view of contributing to ensuring an adequate response to natural disaster by strengthening the response capacity in the early hours and days of a disaster.

Examples of possible eligible activities:

- Provision of basic equipment such as rescue kits and first aid kits complemented by training activities
- Stockpiling of response items at local level through mandated actors or entities and through well established systems

3 - Duration expected for actions in the proposed Decision:

The duration for the implementation of this Decision shall be 18 months. Humanitarian operations funded by this Decision must be implemented within this period.

The 18 month duration for this Decision is necessary because the nature of the activities proposed requires sustained engagement and establishment of optimal working relationships with both the target beneficiaries and public personnel. This requires time, even if the partner is already present in the project location. Moreover, partners are encouraged to develop medium term strategies for DRR to which DIPECHO can contribute through focused or phased actions. Finally, it is necessary to foresee a margin of at least one month in case certain operations are delayed at start-up or because of unforeseen events such as natural disasters.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 1 September 2010.

Start Date: 1 September 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.

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

**List of previous DG ECHO operations in COSTA
RICA/GUATEMALA/HONDURAS/NICARAGUA/PANAMA/EL SALVADOR**

Decision Number	Decision Type	2007 EUR	2008 EUR	2009 EUR
ECHO/NIC/BUD/2007/01000	First Emergency	1,000,000		
ECHO/NIC/BUD/2007/02000	Emergency	5,000,000		
ECHO/-FA/BUD/2007/02000 (*)	Non Emergency	500,000		

5 - Overview of donors' contributions

Donors in COSTA RICA/GUATEMALA/HONDURAS/NICARAGUA/PANAMA/EL SALVADOR the last 12 months
--

1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria		DG ECHO	1,925,865		
Belgium		Other services			
Bulgaria					
Cyprus					
Czech Republic	10,000				
Denmark					
Estonia					
Finland					
France	100,900				
Germany	696,722				
Greece	80,000				
Hungary					
Ireland	300,000				
Italy	5,522,000				
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg	50,000				
Malta					
Netherlands	500,000				
Poland					
Portugal					
Romania					
Slovakia					
Slovenia					
Spain	154,679				
Sweden	1,053,082				
United Kingdom					
Subtotal	8,467,383	Subtotal	1,925,865	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	10,393,248		

Dated : 28 October 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.

5.1. Coordination with other Commission departments:

Since September 2001, coordination on DRR has been ongoing with the Directorate-General for External Relations (DG RELEX) and the EuropeAid Cooperation Office (DG AIDCO) in order to encourage an increased involvement of these services in this field. Similar efforts have been made by the Directorate-General for Development (DG DEV). DG ECHO has stressed the importance of including DRR as a cross-cutting issue in country/regional strategy papers.

Moreover, since the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan (January 2005), significant progress has been made in promoting DRR dialogue within the European Commission.

At the field level, DG ECHO launched a dialogue with some of the Delegations in the region to explore the possibilities for the incorporation of disaster risk management components in programmes supported under the Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) for 2007-2013. At ECHO/DIP/BUD/2010/03000

headquarters level, the same effort is made in terms of information sharing to better link DIPECHO-interventions with the potential mainstreaming of DRR components in the sustainable development programming of DG RELEX and DG AIDCO.

A Disaster Risk Reduction Group was created in 2006 by DG ECHO and the Regional Delegation in Managua to discuss DRR issues and to ensure proper coordination between all disaster preparedness, mitigation and prevention programmes financed by the EC and others in Central America. During 2009-2011, DG ECHO will assume the presidency of the group.

EUR 20,000,000 was earmarked in the EU regional strategic paper for Central America for a regional programme on disaster prevention (PREVDA) that was launched in 2006. This programme should contribute to a reduction of the vulnerability of the region and the improvement of the environmental situation by reinforcing regional and national capacities in terms of planning, prevention and information management. Coordination has already been established in Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and at a regional level with the PREVDA coordinators who participated in the regular meetings organized with the DIPECHO partners under the Sixth DIPECHO Action Plan. The Seventh DIPECHO Action Plan should complement and be complemented by this regional programme. The PREVDA programme should be finalized at the end of 2010.

In April 2009, EUR 7,480,000 were approved for funding through the Stability Instrument for the RAAN¹⁷ in Nicaragua for rehabilitation and reconstruction purposes after the Hurricane Felix of 2007. Coordination opportunities between this programme and the Seventh DIPECHO Action Plan in Nicaragua will be sought, and if DIPECHO community-based projects are selected in this region, efforts will be made to ensure complementarity.

5.2. - Member States:

In a note dated 23 October 2009 DG ECHO requested Humanitarian Aid Committee (HAC) members to provide information about projects they are supporting in the area of DRR funded by EU Member States in the region. The following information was received:

Germany informed that it is funding a variety of projects in Central America (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama) during the period 2008-2011, amounting to a total of EUR 2,450,000. Half of this amount is dedicated to strengthening national platforms for disaster risk reduction via the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). The other half is allocated to community-based activities, implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 in the region.

Czech Republic has funded the programme "Geological Studies for the Identification of Vulnerability to Natural Risk and Prevention of Geological Hazards" through the Czech Geological Survey from 2007 to 2009 amounting to a total of EUR 700,000. The projects were focused on vulnerability of urban areas to destructive natural phenomena in connection with land-use planning. The projects had an essential part of capacity building of local partner institutions. The studies have been carried out in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

¹⁷ Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN in its Spanish acronym)
ECHO/DIP/BUD/2010/03000

5.3 - Other Donors:

Every effort will be made to coordinate and ensure complementarity with other ongoing or planned DRR operations in the geographical areas concerned. Most of the programmes financed by other international donors in Central America have focused on disaster prevention and mitigation rather than on preparedness. Regional, national and to a lesser extent municipal levels have been prioritized by those programmes. Community-based projects have been rare. Some complementarity, though, has been achieved by previous DIPECHO action plans with those few municipal and community-based projects funded by other donors in the same geographical areas.

By participating in previous Regional Consultative Meeting and in other meetings organised by DG ECHO, the other donors' agencies have been sharing with DG ECHO their plans for DRR in the region.

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (COSUDE)

COSUDE has been financing risk management initiatives in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and at a regional level. The initiatives have mainly focused on disaster prevention and mitigation. COSUDE will invest more funds for Honduras and Nicaragua for the period 2010-2012. COSUDE will participate in the Regional Consultative Meeting in order to establish synergies with the 7th DIPECHO Action Plan which will certainly lead to LRRD, as it has been the case for the previous DIPECHO Action Plan.

Norway

Norway is currently financing in Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua, a Seismic Risk Reduction Project through CEPREDENAC. (2007-2011)

Japanese Cooperation (JICA)

JICA is currently financing the regional project for the Development of Capacities for Risk Management in Central America (BOSAI). The project started in 2007 and will finish in May 2012.

JICA finances two projects in **Nicaragua** in vulnerability reduction (2006-2011). Also, the National Institute of Territorial Studies (INETER) recently implemented a Risk Mapping project in some Pacific Region areas. JICA is also currently implementing (May 2009- May 2012) in **El Salvador** a project on improving the technology for constructions and dissemination of the Earthquake-Resistant Popular Housing. Finally, JICA is also working in Strengthening Local Capacity for the Reduction of Disaster Risk by Earthquakes in slums in **Guatemala City**.

USAID/OFDA

They are currently elaborating their new Strategic Plan for the region for the period 2009-2014. They will work on Disaster Risk Reduction activities and their strategy will be focused to create alliances in order to complement ongoing activities, such as the DIPECHO projects.

The World Bank (WB)

El Salvador: Earthquake Emergency Reconstruction and Health Services Project (2002-2009). This project seeks to restore hospital operations, and improve the provision of health assistance.

Honduras: Natural Disaster Mitigation Project –PMDN- (2000-2010). This project seeks to improve Honduras' capacity to reduce its vulnerability to natural disasters at the municipal level.

Guatemala: Catastrophe Development Policy Project (2009-2012). This project seeks to enhance the Government's capacity to implement its disaster risk management program for natural disasters.

Nicaragua: Hurricane Felix Emergency Recovery Project (2008-2012). The objective is to support the sustainable recovery of the communities affected by Hurricane Felix in the North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN) of Nicaragua.

Costa Rica: Catastrophe Development Policy Project (2008-2011). This project seeks to enhance the Government's capacity to implement its disaster risk management program for natural disasters.

Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)

Disaster Prevention Fund -DPF

4 USD millions will be engaged during 2010 and will be complementary to DIPECHO as IADB will dedicate a loan for Prevention and Mitigation. The areas prioritized are in Nicaragua and Guatemala.

Multidonor Prevention Fund

In El Salvador this fund is being used to finance complementary actions to what has been done with previous DIPECHO projects. Possibly, this fund will be used in the future in Honduras in order to strengthen the national system, but it is currently blocked.

Additionally, there are currently two major loans: **Honduras:** \$19 millions, to be executed. It is a fund for prevention and mitigation. This loan will be disburse<d once the political crisis is solved. **Nicaragua:** \$10 millions. It is currently being negotiated. This will be executed in 2011 and will be oriented to mitigation works. This could complement DIPECHO projects activities.

6 - Amount of Decision and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1. - Total amount of the Decision: EUR 10,000,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: To reduce the vulnerability and increase the coping capacities of Central America populations living in areas most affected by natural hazards				
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Activities	Potential partners¹⁸
<p>Specific objective 1: To contribute to increasing resilience and contribute to reducing vulnerability of local communities and institutions through support to strategies that enable them to better prepare for, mitigate and respond to natural disasters</p>	10,000,000	Costa Rica El Salvador Guatemala Honduras Nicaragua Panama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local disaster management components - Institutional linkages and advocacy - Information, education and communication - Small-scale infrastructure and services - Stock-building of emergency and relief items 	<p><u>Direct centralised management</u> ACF – FRA, ACH- ESP, ACP, ACSUR – MADRID, ACTED, ACTIONAID, ADRA – DEU, ADRA – DK, ASB – DEU, ASF – DNK, AYUDA EN ACCIÓN, CAFOD, CARE – AUT, CARE – FR, CARE – UK, CARE NEDERLAND (FORMER DRA), CARITAS – AUT, CARITAS – BEL, CARITAS – DEU, CARITAS – ESP, CARITAS – FRA, CESVI, CHRISTIAN AID – UK, CHURCH OF SWEDEN AID, CISP, CISV, CONCERN UNIVERSAL, CONCERN WORLDWIDE, COOPI, CORD, CORDAID, COSPE, CRIC, CROIX-ROUGE – DEU, CROIX-ROUGE – ESP, CROIX-ROUGE – FIN, CROIX-ROUGE – FRA, CROIX-ROUGE – ITA, CROIX-ROUGE – NLD, CROIX-ROUGE – NOR, DANCHURCHAID – DNK, DIAKONIE, FINNCHURCHAID, GERMAN AGRO ACTION, GOAL, GTZ, GVC, HANDICAP (FR), HANDICAP (BEL), HELPAGE INTERNATIONAL – UK, ICCO, ICU, INTERMON, MDM – ESP, MDM – FRA, MEDICUS MUNDI – ESP, MERCY CORPS SCOTLAND, MPDL, NORWEGIAN PEOPLE'S AID, OIKOS, OXFAM – BEL, OXFAM – UK, PLAN GERMANY, PLAN INTERNATIONAL UK, PTM, SAH, SAVE THE CHILDREN – NLD, SAVE THE CHILDREN – UK, SECOURS POPULAIRE – FR, SI, STCH, TEARFUND – UK, TERRE DES HOMMES (TDH) – ITA, TERRE DES HOMMES – CHE, TROCAIRE, TSF-FRANCE, WORLD VISION – UK, WORLD VISION DEU, WV AUT, WVN</p> <p><u>Joint management</u> FAO, IFRIC-FICR, IOM, OCHA, PAHO, UNCHS – HABITAT, UNDP-PNUD, UNICEF, WFP-PAM</p>
TOTAL:	10,000,000			

¹⁸ ACCION CONTRA EL HAMBRE, (ESP), ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM, (FR), ACTIONAID, ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY - DENMARK, AGENCE D'AIDE A LA COOPERATION TECHNIQUE ET AU DEVELOPPEMENT, (FR), ARBEITER-SAMARITER-BUND DEUTSCHLAND e.V., ASAMBLEA DE COOPERACION POR LA PAZ, (E), ASF – DANSK FOLKEHJALP, AYUDA EN ACCIÓN, (E), Adventistische Entwicklungs- und Katastrophenhilfe e.V., Asociación para la Cooperación con el Sur _LAS SEGOVIAS_, CARE ÖSTERREICH, CARE FRANCE, (FR), CARE INTERNATIONAL UK, CARITAS AUSTRIA, (AUT), CARITAS ESPANOLA, (E), CARITAS FRANCE - SECOURS CATHOLIQUE, (FR), CARITAS INTERNATIONAL, CATHOLIC AGENCY FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT (GBR), CATHOLIC ORGANISATION FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT AID (NLD), CENTRO REGIONALE D INTERVENTO PER LA COOPERAZIONE (ITA), CESVI, CHRISTIAN AID (GBR), CHRISTIAN OUTREACH Relief and Development, (UK), COMITATO INTERNAZIONALE PER LO SVILUPPO DEI POPOLI (ITA), COMUNITA'IMPEGNO SERVIZIO VOLONTARIATO, CONCERN UNIVERSAL (GBR), CONCERN WORLDWIDE, (IRL), COOPERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE (ITA), COOPERAZIONE PER LO SVILUPPO DEI PAESI EMERGENTI (ITA), CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA (ITA), CROIX-ROUGE FRANCAISE, CRUZ ROJA ESPAÑOLA, (E), DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR TECHNISCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT, DEUTSCHE WELTHUNGERHILFE e.V., DEUTSCHER CARITASVERBAND e.V. (DEU), DEUTSCHES ROTES KREUZ, (DEU), DIAKONISCHES WERK der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland (DEU), FEDERACION DE ASOCIACIONES MEDICUS MUNDI ESPANA, (E), FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE, FOLKEKIRKENS NODHJALP, (FKN), FONDAZIONE TERRE DES HOMMES ITALIA ONLUS, FUNDACIÓN MUNDUBAT, (E), Fundación Save The Children, GOAL, (IRL), GRUPPO DI VOLONTARIATO CIVILE (ITA), HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL (BEL), HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL (FR), HELPAGE INTERNATIONAL (GBR), HET NEDERLANDSE RODE KRUIS (NLD), INTERMON OXFAM, (E), INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (INT), ISTITUTO PER LA COOPERAZIONE UNIVERSITARIA - ONLUS (ITA), Interkerkelijke Organisatie voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking, Kirkon Ulkomaanavun säätiö, LUTHERHJÄLPEN(SWE), MEDECINS DU MONDE, MEDICOS DEL MUNDO ESPAÑA, MERCY CORPS SCOTLAND (GBR), MOVIMIENTO POR LA PAZ, EL DESARME Y LA LIBERTAD, (E), NORGES RODE KORS (NORWEGIAN RED CROSS), NORSK FOLKEHJELP (NOR), OIKOS - COOPERAÇÃO E DESENVOLVIMENTO, OXFAM (GB), OXFAM-Solidarite(it), (BEL), PLAN INTERNATIONAL (UK), Plan International Deutschland e.V., SAVE THE CHILDREN (NLD), SECOURS POPULAIRE FRANCAIS, (FR), SOLIDARIDAD INTERNACIONAL, (E), SUOMEN PUNAINEN RISTI (CROIX ROUGE FINLANDAISE), Schweizerisches Arbeiterhilfswerk, Stichting CARE Nederland, Stichting World Vision Nederland, TEARFUND (GBR), TELECOMS SANS FRONTIERES, TERRE DES HOMMES-CHE, THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND (GBR), Trocaire, (IRL), UNICEF, UNITED NATIONS - FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION, UNITED NATIONS - PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, UNITED NATIONS, OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, WORLD VISION - UK, WORLD VISION, (DEU), World Vision Österreich

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 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.

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.

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.