
HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)

Worldwide response to/preparedness for small-scale disasters via the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)

The activities proposed hereafter are still subject to the adoption of the financing decision
ECHO/WWD/ BUD/2014/01000

AMOUNT: EUR 3 000 000

1. CONTEXT

Since 2009 the Directorate-General Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) has responded to small-scale disasters with humanitarian consequences via an **earmarked contribution** to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). DG ECHO's participation in the DREF was motivated by the need to ensure a **quick reaction capacity with minimal administrative burden** for the parties concerned. The first 2 funding decisions in support of the DREF were ECHO/DRF/BUD/2008/01000 (adopted on 17/12/2008 for EUR 2 million) and ECHO/DRF/BUD/2010/02000 (adopted on 01/06/2010 for EUR 1.5 million and modified on 25/10/2010 with a budgetary increase of EUR 1.5 million). The first decision was used to co-finance 30 operations worldwide, whilst the second was used to co-finance 37 operations worldwide. During the implementation period of the 2008 contribution agreement, DG ECHO's replenishments represented 14% of the total amount of grants made by the DREF, whilst for the 2010 contribution agreement they represented 24%.

In 2011 the financing of humanitarian Actions in the form of a contribution to the DREF was covered by Specific objective 4 of Decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2011/01000. In 2012 and 2013 it was covered by **Specific objective 3** (response to small scale disasters and epidemics) of the Decisions of those years. In each case a contribution agreement with IFRC was concluded for EUR 3 million, with an implementation period of 16 months (ECHO/DRF/BUD/2011/91001, ECHO/DRF/BUD/2012/91001 and ECHO/DRF/BUD/2013/91001). In 2014 it will also be covered by Specific objective 3 of decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2014/01000. As of 25/11/2013, the ongoing agreement has supported 28 DREF operations with over EUR 2.6 million. In 2011 DG ECHO replenishments represented 29% and in 2012 24% of the total DREF grants. In 2012 DG ECHO replenished 35 DREF operations which represents 61% of the grants for those operations, the same percentage as 2011.

This support provided to IFRC's **DREF is part of DG ECHO's "Extended Emergency Toolbox"**, together with the Epidemics HIP and the Small-scale response HIP. All disasters listed in section 2 "Humanitarian Needs" under "Affected people/potential beneficiaries" are ones which have received DREF assistance and are likely to recur in future. Similarly, all sectors and types of support described under "Description of the humanitarian needs" are those which have been covered by DREF operations.

2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

(1) Affected people/ potential beneficiaries

The beneficiaries will be vulnerable people in third countries throughout the world who are affected by disasters, which have increased in frequency and severity during the last few years, such as floods, landslides, cyclones, tsunamis, drought, fires, cold waves, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, epidemics, food insecurity, population movements and civil unrest. Figures published by the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED)¹ show that the total number of natural disasters was lower in 2012 than the annual average disaster occurrence in the last decade, but the human and economic impact of disasters in 2012 was still massive. CRED figures also show that **small and medium-scale emergencies have regularly increased over the last decades**. The overall trend in DREF use since 2006 shows indeed an increased number of grants requested for small and medium-sized disasters globally, to which National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies responded.

(2) Description of the humanitarian needs

Relief will be provided, as well as preparedness for imminent disasters, in the context of **small-scale emergencies for which an appeal is unlikely to be launched**.

Humanitarian needs are likely to be in sectors including health, water, sanitation, shelter, non-food relief items, food assistance, vouchers or small cash grants, psycho-social support, protection, assistance to displaced people and information provision. Support may be provided for mobilisation, training and equipment of volunteers; mobilisation and deployment of response teams; search and rescue; evacuation; need assessment. Disaster preparedness needs are likely to include early warning procedures, evacuation of those at risk, preparation of shelters, pre-disaster assessment of response capacity, implementation of a contingency plan, communications and pre-positioning of relief supplies, logistics and human resource assets. Travel, operational, communication, monitoring and evaluation costs incurred by the Red Cross/Red Crescent National Society or Federation in relation to the relief operations may also be covered.

3. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

1) National / local response and involvement

Most small-scale emergencies are responded to at local or national level. The Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, supported by the IFRC, are often best placed to provide an immediate response, being **rooted in the local community and mobilising community members as volunteers**. It will be appropriate to continue to support this approach in 2014, as the regime of EU Aid Volunteers continues to develop.

2) International Humanitarian Response

Financial support for the DREF is provided by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, governments, corporate and private donors. DREF donor meetings are held in Geneva and DG ECHO is represented at these, ensuring donor coordination. In 2012, the

¹ Annual Disaster Statistical Review 2012, published August 2013

main donors were the European Commission (DG ECHO), the Norwegian Government/Red Cross, the Netherlands Government/Red Cross, the Irish, Spanish and Belgian Governments, the Swedish Government/Red Cross and the Canadian Government/Red Cross.

3) Constraints and DG ECHO response capacity

Access to more isolated communities may be a constraint. Political, social and/or security instability is a possible constraint as well as logistical problems. Additional natural disasters could hamper the smooth implementation of operations. Lack of involvement of authorities could undermine the continuity/sustainability of DRR actions.

4) Envisaged DG ECHO response and expected results of humanitarian aid intervention.

DG ECHO will contribute to the DREF in response to **small-scale emergencies, both sudden and slow-onset, including preparedness for imminent disasters**, providing timely relief to vulnerable people in third countries eligible for humanitarian aid financed by the general budget of the European Union. Eligible costs are those related to DREF operations, so long as these respond to small-scale emergencies for which an appeal is unlikely to be launched. A small-scale disaster is an emergency affecting a limited number of people (sometimes no more than 100,000) at a local level, which does not usually trigger an international response. Allocations from DG ECHO funding to the DREF can be used to replenish the allocations made to individual DREF operations in full or in part, with a maximum amount of EUR 200,000 per operation. DG ECHO will be able to provide rapid relief and preparedness for imminent disasters to vulnerable people affected by small-scale disasters worldwide. The disaster preparedness/response capacity-building at local and national level, which results from DG ECHO's support of the DREF, adds a long-term sustainable aspect to this short-term response.

4. LRRD, COORDINATION AND TRANSITION

1) Other DG ECHO interventions

It will be important to achieve complementarity with the **other components of DG ECHO's "Extended Emergency Toolbox"**, mentioned above. Similarly, links should be made whenever possible with DG ECHO's Disaster Preparedness programme (DIPECHO).

2) Other services/donors availability (such as for LRRD and transition)

In 2012, the main donors were the European Commission (DG ECHO), the Norwegian Government/Red Cross, the Netherlands Government/Red Cross, the Irish, Spanish and Belgian Governments, the Swedish Government/Red Cross and the Canadian Government/Red Cross.

3) Other concomitant EU interventions

When DREF operations are carried out in places where other EU interventions take place, links should be made with other EU-funded activities.

4) Exit scenarios

Grants from DREF are used to ensure emergency preparedness, relief and restoration of basic subsistence needs for people affected by disasters. These operations aim to meet immediate needs while providing the communities with the basis for **early recovery and sustainable solutions**. DREF operations have a **maximum implementing period of six months**. There is thus a clearly defined exit scenario for every DREF operation funded by DG ECHO while on the longer term a relief operation funded through DREF also allows National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies to strengthen their role in disaster response in their countries.