



Humanitarian Aid Decision

23 02 01

Title: Humanitarian aid for the people displaced by the conflict in Sri Lanka and for the Tamil refugees living in Tamil Nadu, India

Location of operation: SOUTH ASIA

Amount of decision: EUR 2,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/-SA/BUD/2005/02000

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population:

1.1. - Rationale:

Sri Lanka is a densely populated island nation of 19.6 million people located off the south-eastern tip of India. It is a lower middle-income country with a per capita income of about EUR 680. The incidence of poverty has been reduced over the past four decades, but 25% of the population still subsist below the poverty line. The indicators for the population in the North and East of the island are substantially worse¹.

Development has been impeded by hostilities between the majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils. A conflict waged by Tamil separatists² in the country's northern and eastern region between 1983 and February 2002 has exacted a heavy toll on the economy, claiming over 65,000 human lives.

Up to 800,000 people have been internally displaced at any given time. The population was displaced both within the Jaffna peninsula and southwards to the Vanni region. In subsequent years, the conflict has moved steadily further towards the South, leading to massive new displacements of people within the whole Vanni region.

The conflict has also led to the exodus of over 100,000 Sri Lankan Tamils to Tamil Nadu in the southeastern part of India. India is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol. Apart from the special agreement UNHCR has obtained with the Indian authorities to undertake the verification of the voluntary nature of repatriation requests and to provide logistical support to persons wishing to return to Sri Lanka, UNHCR has no mandate to provide emergency assistance to the 60,000 refugees located in 102 camps and has no access to these camps.

¹ Source: World Bank, April 2005.

² Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The ceasefire of 22 February 2002 allows the northern and eastern districts of the country to experience the longest period of absence of fighting since 1983. The international monitoring mission chaired by a Norwegian representative and composed of members of Nordic countries³ continues to supervise the respect of the ceasefire by both parties. Additionally, the donors support meeting on humanitarian aid held in Oslo in November 2002 consolidated these new steps towards peace, and the development donor conference in Tokyo in June 2003 resulted in pledges amounting to EUR 4,5 billion.

However, since April 2003, the political situation has deteriorated when the LTTE decided to temporarily withdraw from the direct negotiations between the parties. Additionally, the general elections of 2 April 2004 resulted in a new alliance between the President's party and a pro-war party rendered the political situation very unstable, the split from an Eastern faction of LTTE led to a battle in April 2004. Assassinations continue between these factions.

The tsunami of 26 December 2004 affected heavily Sri Lanka with the deaths of 30,957 people and the disappearance of 5,637 others⁴, mainly women and children. It was expected that this tragedy would have led to a revival of the peace process but this does not seem to materialise despite the fact that an important component of the reconstruction aid is tied to the peace process ("trust fund"). Therefore the immediate future is most unpredictable and there is concern that development assistance may be delayed due to uncertainties in the political situation.

Many Internally Displaced People (IDPs) have taken advantage of the ceasefire to return to their land. Of an estimated 740,000 IDPs living inside and outside "welfare centres"⁵ before the ceasefire, 380,000 IDPs returned to their areas of origin between January 2002 and November 2004, i.e. 269,000 in 2002, 77,000 in 2003 and 34,000 in 2004⁶. The bulk of these returnees came back between June and October 2002. The trend continued on a lower scale, i.e. about 12,000 returnees per month, between November 2002 and March 2003. Since then, the figure has dropped to 4,500 returnees per month in 2003 and 3,000 per month in 2004. The figure of returning IDPs for November 2004 was 1,000. The forecast for 2005 is difficult to estimate but if the trend continues, there should be a maximum of around 15,000 people returning should this "no peace-no war" situation remain.

Jaffna peninsula received 48% of the returning IDPs. The other main area of return is the Vanni (Vavuniya, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi districts) with 39.4%. Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts in the East (5.7%) and Mannar district in the west (5.2%) experienced returns on a more limited scale.

The number of refugees living in camps in India is now around 60,000. About 9,000 of these refugees have returned since the ceasefire, ¾ of them spontaneously. Contrary to the IDPs, the refugee return rate is gaining momentum: 9,000 refugees returned in 2004 against 5,000 in 2003 and 1,500 in 2002. The Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of India informed the refugees that they will organise a massive repatriation once the political picture becomes clearer. However, a significant proportion of them are now returning to Sri Lanka, despite the absence of peace. Their main concerns relate to the mines issue and access to the government financial scheme set up for returnees. However, the political context will still be a significant factor for many refugees and some will not return until

³ Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission (SLMM).

⁴ Source: Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

⁵ Welfare centres: 318 IDP camps in the conflict-affected areas and their bordering districts. They are managed by the Government.

⁶ Source: UNHCR and Ministry of Rehabilitation, resettlement and refugees, November 2004.

peace is well embedded. Reasonable estimates put the figure of returning refugees at up to 10,000 in 2005, most of them going back to Jaffna and Mannar districts.

These IDPs and refugees, who have been displaced, are not directly eligible to the important humanitarian support provided by the Commission in response to the tsunami of 26 December 2004 since these funds are specifically affected for the victims of the tsunami and the affected communities⁷.

1.2. - Identified needs:

Immediate needs for non-food items, shelters, water and sanitation, protection, psycho-social counselling:

The movement of return is expected to continue in 2005 but on a more limited scale. Those who could not resettle these last three years because of the lack of confidence in the peace process, the absence of land due to the existence of restricted areas that are now reducing little by little, and the presence of mines, will probably return this year.

It is expected that a certain portion of the IDPs living in “welfare centres” are unlikely to be able or willing to return to their places of origin due to a number of reasons such as their ethnic background, no land ownership, or vulnerabilities like physical handicaps and elderliness. Another deterrent for returns is IDPs who have become urbanized and are therefore reluctant to restart in rural areas giving up their businesses or schooling opportunities for their children.

This concerns primarily IDPs but the number of spontaneous returns of refugees from Tamil Nadu should increase compared to the last three years.

The danger posed by mines is being addressed at the moment but the conflict-affected areas remain heavily mined. 1,100 people have been affected and 158 killed by mines and UXOs since 1995. 55% of these incidents took place in the Jaffna peninsula. The number of incidents immediately after the ceasefire was reported to be 15 to 20 per month. This figure has now dropped to 4 to 7 per month⁸. These incidents, while still too high, reflect the success of emergency mine action in Sri Lanka which has prevented an increase in casualties resulting from the increased number of returnees⁹.

However the villages of return for the IDPs have been affected by the war and suffer from damaged infrastructures including houses, schools, health centres, latrines in suburban areas, wells and irrigation systems, particularly in LTTE-controlled areas where bans and restrictions by the government severely affected development. The rainwater collecting tanks have been neglected for many years and need immediate repairs in order to supply water for agricultural purposes.

Many of the spontaneous returnees have been living in camps for years and their houses and village infrastructure have been badly damaged or destroyed by the conflict. They lack shelters, but also basic household items so that they can

⁷ Sri Lanka benefits from the regional Primary Emergency Decision of EUR 3 million of 26 December 2004. The emergency decision of 30 December 2004 is funding six-month operations for an amount of EUR 8.26 million and it is expected that around EUR 20 million will be spent in Sri Lanka for short term rehabilitation activities in 2005 and 2006, mainly on the shores of the North and the East which suffered about 40% of the damages.

⁸ Source: Mine action media Campaign, December 2003.

⁹ ECHO's contribution to mine action to date amounts to EUR 6.3 million since April 2002. The last decision (ECHO/LKA/BUD/2004/01000) for mine surveys, mapping and humanitarian de-mining was approved in December 2004 and the operation will be implemented, mainly in Jaffna, during 2005.

immediately and properly resettle their activities. Also many changed the locations several times to escape from the areas of fighting.

Many displaced and refugees face legal issues of concern, such as the lack of documentation pertaining to land tenure/property and title deeds for housing, settlement of disputes regarding land boundaries or property occupied by new tenants, identification of property for second generation IDPs and property within restricted areas such as the High Security Zones.

Access to safe drinking water remains a problem. The relatively low supply of safe drinking water necessarily impacts upon the health status of those living in the area. The destruction of both wells and latrines during the war created a situation of deplorable hygiene conditions and practices. Furthermore the lack of water facilities can be a deterrent to the resettlement of displaced villagers. In particular the situation is more difficult in “uncleared areas”, where the environment is particularly poor due to lack of opportunities of livelihood restoration in the most remote areas, with very difficult access.

350,000 people still remain displaced. Among them, about 78,000 persons are living in welfare centres run by the government with some support from WFP, UNHCR and GTZ. These camps are scattered around the conflict-affected areas and in the bordering districts like Anuradhapura and Puttalam. The main locations of these centres are in Puttalam (35,000 persons), Jaffna and Kilinochchi (10,000 each), Vavunya (9,000) and Mannar (8,000). WFP is gradually phasing out of relief rations in the camps and is concentrating its support on a supplementary feeding programme for lactating and pregnant women and children (79,000 beneficiaries in 2003). UNHCR provides limited funding (EUR 160,000 per year) to repair roofing of the shelters. People in these welfare centres are living in deplorable conditions, in warehouses where promiscuity is the rule, and where safe drinking water is badly needed. Many extremely vulnerable individuals are living in this camp: old and disabled people, Indian Tamils who used to work in the tea plantations of the south, landless people and women-headed households. Their resettlement prospects are extremely limited and these particularly vulnerable people have received much less attention than returning IDPs. The overall situation in the welfare centres is of extreme vulnerability: no income, no relocation prospective for the future¹⁰, lack of hygiene, lack of water and sanitation, alcohol dependency, marginalisation of the numerous single-women headed households, violence on women, youths left without opportunity to learn a skill and earn a living.

Health care to the 60,000 refugees and nutritional support to 13,000 most vulnerable refugees, particularly children, in Tamil Nadu:

Concerning the Tamil refugees living in the camps in Tamil Nadu, India, ECHO is the only international donor supporting them at the moment. The government of Tamil Nadu is providing the refugees with a small monthly allowance of INR 479¹¹ for a family of four members, representing 25% of the cost of providing the minimum caloric needs for this family (9220 Kcal per day). The government also provides them with a certain quantity of rice at a subsidised price. Most of the refugees are hosted in “cadjan” sheds and in old cyclone shelters. Additionally, refugees can access local

¹⁰ The IDPs living in the welfare centers in Jaffna have their home located in the high security zones.

¹¹ About EUR 8.5.

government health centres but many camps are located far away from these centres. The same problem exists for access to the local schools.

ECHO support started in July 2002 and has produced results that need to be consolidated. There have been no newborn babies below 2.0 kg since April 2003 and the babies who fall in the 2.0–2.5 kg category have come down to 4% of the total. At the other end, the newborn babies above 2.5 kg seem to have stabilized on a level of 95%, which is a satisfactory result when compared to the corresponding figure of 67% for India as a whole. As for 0-5 year old children, the general trend is that children with normal weight have increased their share of the total by an average of 17,5 %. The overall improvement of this large group of children (7,000) does not meet the initial expectations as children with normal weight should make up at least 60% of the total by now, instead of 42% today¹².

Through the project, ECHO was also able to maintain a database which provides all necessary information about the refugees, including their areas of origin, the conditions for their return, their original training etc. This has been an effective tool for registration and management of camp populations. Its primary purpose is to design a tool for the correct planning of refugee returns in a clustered and manageable manner while spin off benefits have also created legal documentation and recording of births, deaths and marriages. This information is shared with the authorities in Tamil Nadu and with UNHCR which funded the setting-up of the database.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

The regions targeted are the northern and North-eastern parts of Sri Lanka and the Tamil refugee camps in Tamil Nadu, India.

The present decision will benefit the IDPs returning to their places of origin and the most vulnerable hosting families in the war-affected areas of Sri Lanka. The geographical shift, initiated with Decision ECHO/TPS/210/2003/06000 of 31 March 2003, from the Jaffna peninsula to the under-developed LTTE-controlled Vanni will be continued. IDPs living in government's "welfare centres" will also be targeted. Finally the decision will benefit the 60,000 Tamil refugees, especially women and children living in the camps in Tamil Nadu.

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints:

While the implementation of the bilateral cease-fire has been satisfactory, the political situation has deteriorated since April 2003 with regular and serious cease-fire violations. The risk that the conflict restarts remains high.

The political and ethnic configurations in the North-eastern districts (Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Ampara) may have a negative impact on the implementation of humanitarian aid projects in terms of access.

However, the ceasefire is now three years old and the "no war-no peace" situation has been and still is an incentive for IDPs and refugees to return to their places of origin. The on-going implementation of Decision ECHO/LKA/BUD/2004/01000 is helping to prevent additional mine casualties, particularly in Jaffna and, with the present Decision, will pave the way for economic and social rehabilitation programmes in the resettlement areas.

A massive return of the Tamil refugees living in camps in Tamil Nadu will most probably not take place before a bilateral agreement is reached between the government of India and the government of Sri Lanka. However voluntary return of refugees on an individual basis will continue in 2005.

¹² Source: Dan Church Aid, January 2005.

2- Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. – Objectives:

Principal objective:

To assist people displaced by the conflict and returning to their places of origin, IDPs living in welfare centres and the Tamil refugees living in camps in Tamil Nadu, India.

Specific objectives:

- To help about 200,000 returnees and resident populations to meet their immediate needs.
- To improve access to health care and nutrition for the 60,000 refugees living in Tamil Nadu, mainly women and children.

2.2. - Components:

The operational conclusion of the needs analysis undertaken by the partners and the ECHO Technical Assistants' missions of December 2004, January and February 2005 is that humanitarian interventions should continue to focus on an integrated approach for the benefit of the returnees and their economic and social environment and special attention should continue to be paid to the conflict-affected IDPs, whose case has been somewhat "forgotten" after the tsunami. ECHO intends to work with partners able to propose multi-sectoral schemes or packages for returnees in mine-cleared areas in the northern regions of Sri Lanka, as has been done through the funding decisions adopted in July 2002, March 2003 and July 2004¹³. In order for the returnees to re-start their livelihood, non-food relief items will be distributed. Protection, including legal assistance and psycho-social support will be provided to the most vulnerable, in order to establish durable solutions in the reintegration process. The programme includes also the rehabilitation and construction of water sources, with a particular focus on maintenance.

ECHO intends also to provide some assistance to IDPs in "welfare centres" by supporting maintenance of the shelters and the rehabilitation and construction of drinking water wells and latrines to ensure that their minimum living standards are met, especially where inadequate government maintenance might result in creating a push factor amongst IDPs forcing them to return to areas that may be unsafe. Training and tools kits for self-help activities should also be provided in some "welfare centres".

Assistance will be provided to the 60,000 Tamil refugees living in camps in Tamil Nadu, India. This will take the form of supplementary food rations that will be distributed to pregnant and lactating mothers and to children under five. Supplementary nutrition programmes will be conducted for undernourished, chronically ill and infirm refugees and for severely undernourished children. Health care and health awareness will also be continued through preventive primary health care. Health workers will be trained, first aid medication and equipment for basic clinical tests in the camps will be provided. Finally the database providing relevant information on the refugees' requirements and preparedness for repatriation in Sri Lanka will be maintained in collaboration with UNHCR.

¹³ Funding decisions ECHO/LKA/210/2002/03000 and ECHO/TPS/210/2003/06000.

3 - Duration foreseen for actions within the framework of the proposed decision:

The duration for the implementation of this decision will be 14 months.

Humanitarian operations funded by this decision must be implemented within this period.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 01/04/2005 in order to ensure the continuation of the previous support funded by Decision ECHO/-SA/2004/02000.

Start Date: 01/04/2005

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 decision.

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 crisis concerned herewith

List of previous ECHO operations in India and Sri Lanka related to the conflict				
Decision number	Decision type	2002 EUR	2003 EUR	2004 EUR
ECHO/IND/210/2002/01000	Non Emergency	2,000,000		
ECHO/LKA/210/2002/01000	Non Emergency	1,000,000		
ECHO/LKA/210/2002/02000	Non Emergency	1,500,000		
ECHO/LKA/210/2002/03000	Non Emergency	3,800,000		
ECHO/LKA/210/2002/04000	Non Emergency	2,000,000		
ECHO/TPS/210/2003/06000	Non Emergency		6,000,000	
ECHO/LKA/210/2003/02000	Non Emergency		2,000,000	
ECHO/-SA/BUD/2004/01000	Non Emergency			5,500,000
ECHO/LKA/BUD/2004/01000	Non Emergency			1,000,000
	Subtotal	10,300,000	8,000,000	6,500,000
	Total 2002-2004	24,800,000		

Dated : 08/04/2005
Source : HOPE

5 - Other donors and donor co-ordination mechanisms

Most of the aid below concerns the response to the tsunami of 26 December 2004.

Donors in INDIA/SRI LANKA the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria	5,000,000	ECHO	46,947,143		
Belgium	2,030,624	Other services			
Denmark	11,018,867				
Finland	130,000				
France	2,371,072				
Germany	18,530,703				
Greece	4,684,700				
Ireland	3,170,993				
Italy	12,350,000				
Luxembourg	290,000				
Netherlands	8,249,626				
Portugal	834,117				
Spain	1,000,000				
Sweden	3,027,050				
United Kingdom	0				
Subtotal	81,204,292	Subtotal	46,947,143	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	128,151,434		

Dated : 08/04/2005

(*) Source : ECHO 14 Points reporting for Members States. <https://hac.cec.eu.int>

Empty cells means either no information is available or no contribution.

In the framework of the EC policy guidelines on Linking between Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD)¹⁴, a timetable has been established with RELEX/AIDCO to transfer gradually ECHO support in mine action between the end of 2004 and early 2006 in order to achieve a smooth transition.

Following a call for proposals initiated by AIDCO under the Anti-personnel landmines Budget Line 19 02 04 (ex-B7-661) for 2004, the EC Delegation contracted a specialised NGO¹⁵ of EUR 1,240,000 for de-mining activities in the Vanni in 2005 and 2006.

Additionally, under the Rehabilitation budget line for Asia 19.10.04 (former B7-303), RELEX/AIDCO have earmarked EUR 1,980,000 for the UNDP Mine Action programme for the next two years in order to improve co-ordination among the various actors. Also, an amount of EUR 1,300,000 has been allocated under this budget line to support UNICEF mine risk education activities for the next three years, thus allowing good dovetailing with ECHO support which ends on 31 December 2004.

¹⁴ See EC communication "Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development-An Assessment". COM (2001) 153 final, 23.04.2001.

¹⁵ Mines Advisory Group (MAG), a current ECHO partner.

Also under the Uprooted People Budget Line, EUR 6,000,000 could be used for the World-Bank managed housing scheme in 2005, thus ensuring a continuation of ECHO's involvement in shelter.

Finally the recently adopted Tsunami Indicative Programme 2005-2006 foresees EUR 55,000,00 for 2005 and EUR 45,000,000 for the people affected by the tsunami. It is proposed that the whole territory of the affected districts will benefit from this support. Therefore it is expected that some communities which have been affected by the conflict will also be the beneficiaries of this massive support.

6 –Amount of decision and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1. Total amount of the Decision: EUR 1,000,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: <i>To assist people displaced by the conflict and returning to their places of origin, IDPs living in welfare centres and the Tamil refugees living in camps in Tamil Nadu, India.</i>				
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Possible geographical area of operation	Activities	Potential partners¹⁶
Specific objective 1: To help about 200,000 returnees and resident populations to meet their immediate needs	1,800,000	Northern and North-eastern regions of Sri Lanka	- Provision of shelters; - Distribution of non-food relief items; - Homestead rehabilitation, including rehabilitation of agro-wells and small irrigation tanks; - Rehabilitation and cleaning of drinking wells and latrines, including maintenance and hygiene training.	- CROIX-ROUGE - CICR- ICRC - CH - NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL - UN - UNHCR - BEL

¹⁶ COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR), FOLKEKIRKENS NODHJAELP, (DNK), NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL (NOR), UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES - BELGIUM

Specific objective 2: To improve access to health care and nutrition for the 60,000 refugees living in Tamil Nadu, mainly women and children.	200,000	Tamil Nadu state, India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distribution of supplementary food rations to pregnant and lactating mothers and to children under five, to undernourished, chronically ill and infirm refugees and to severely undernourished children; - Preventive primary health care; - Training of health workers and provision of first aid medication and equipment for basic clinical tests; - Maintenance of the refugee database. 	- DANCHURCH AID - DNK
TOTAL	2,000,000			

7 – Evaluation

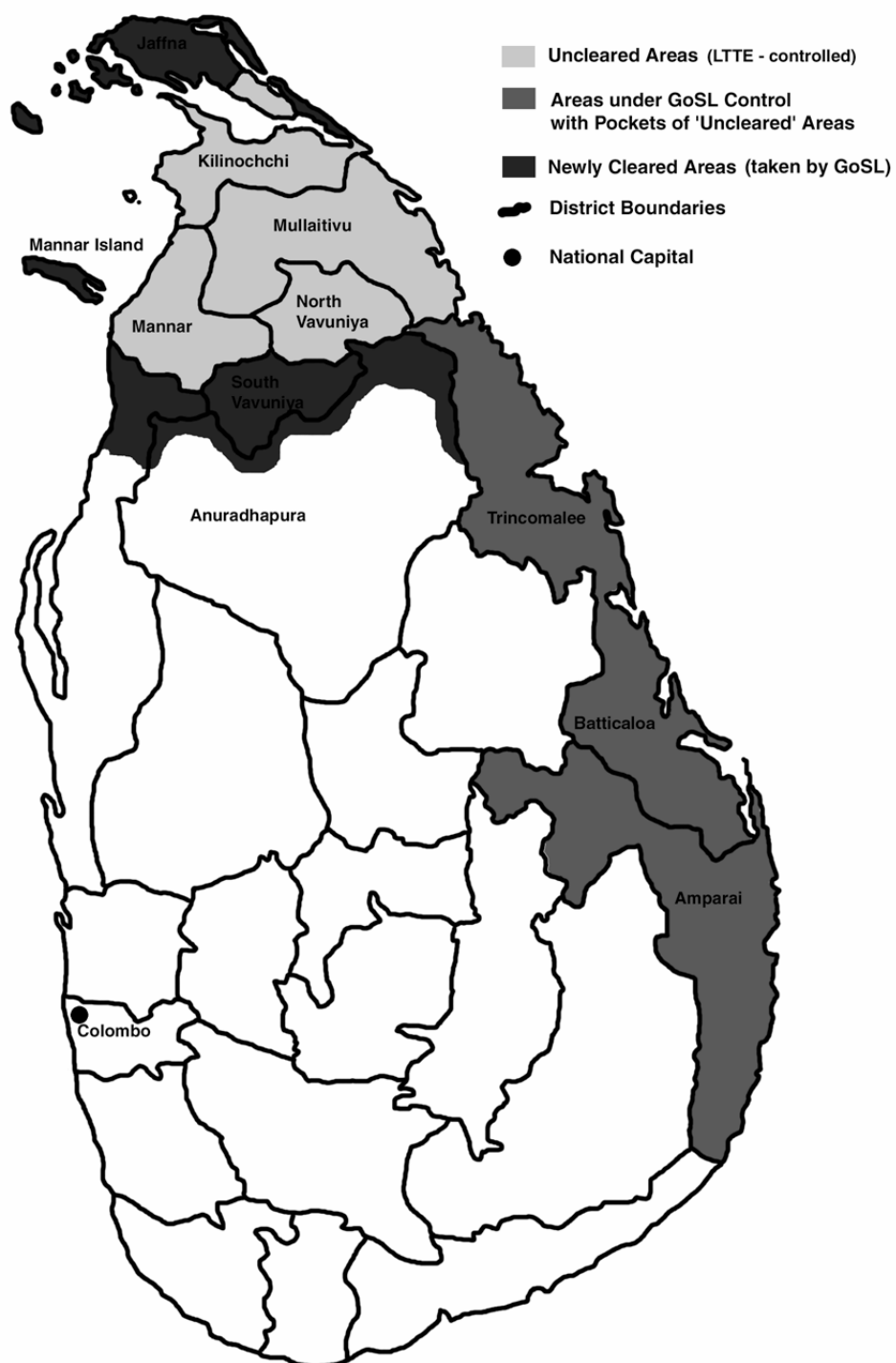
Under article 18 of Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid the Commission is required to "regularly assess humanitarian aid operations financed by the Community in order to establish whether they have achieved their objectives and to produce guidelines for improving the effectiveness of subsequent operations." These evaluations are structured and organised in overarching and cross cutting issues forming part of 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://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/evaluation/index_en.htm.

8. - Budget impact – Budget line 23 02 01

	CE (in Euro)
Initial Available Appropriations for 2005	476 500 000
Supplementary Budgets	-
Transfers	-
Reinforcement from Emergency aid reserve	100 000 000
Total Available Appropriations	576 500 000
Total executed to date (as at 20/04/2005)	396 386 370
Available remaining	180 113 630
Total amount of the Decision	2 000 000

Sri Lanka



COMMISSION DECISION

of

on the financing of humanitarian operations from the general budget of the European Union in SOUTH ASIA

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 aid¹⁷, and in particular Article 14 thereof,

Whereas:

1. The conflict between Tamil separatists and Government forces in the northern and North-eastern region of Sri Lanka since 1983 has exacted a heavy toll on the economy, claiming about 65,000 human lives.
2. Since the truce agreement of February 2002, it is estimated that 380,000 internally displaced people have spontaneously returned to their areas of origin.
3. It is estimated that this movement will continue in 2005 albeit on a reduced scale, thus necessitating quick support to allow these returnees to resettle in the best and safest conditions.
4. 350,000 persons remain displaced to date, including 78,000 people living in welfare centres, and 60,000 Tamil refugees living in about 100 camps in Tamil Nadu, India.
5. An assessment of the humanitarian situation leads to the conclusion that humanitarian aid operations should be financed by the Community for a period of 14 months.
6. It is estimated that an amount of EUR 2,000,000 from budget line 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to over 200,000 displaced persons and residents in Sri Lanka and 60,000 refugees in India, taking into account the available budget, other donors' interventions and other factors.

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 2,000,000 for humanitarian aid operations to assist people displaced by the conflict and returning to their places of origin, IDPs living in welfare centres and the Tamil refugees living in camps in Tamil Nadu, India, by using line 23 02 01 of the 2005 general budget of the European Union.
2. In accordance with Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No.1257/96, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objectives:

¹⁷ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6
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- To help about 200,000 returnees and resident populations to meet their immediate needs.
- To improve access to health care and nutrition for the 60,000 refugees living in Tamil Nadu, mainly women and children.

The amounts allocated to each of these objectives are listed in the annex to this decision.

Article 2

The Commission may, where this is justified by the humanitarian situation, re-allocate the funding levels established for one of the objectives set out in Article 1(2) to another objective mentioned therein, provided that the re-allocated amount represents less than 20% of the global amount covered by this Decision.

Article 3

1. The duration for the implementation of this decision shall be for a maximum period of 14 months, starting on 1 April 2005.
2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 1 April 2005.
3. If the operations envisaged in this Decision are suspended owing to *force majeure* or comparable circumstances, the period of suspension shall not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the implementation of this Decision

Article 4

This Decision shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission

Annex: Breakdown of allocations by specific objectives

Principal objective: To assist people displaced by the conflict and returning to their places of origin, IDPs living in welfare centres and the Tamil refugees living in camps in Tamil Nadu, India.	
Specific objectives	Amount per specific objective (EUR)
To help about 200,000 returnees and resident populations to meet their immediate needs	1,800,000
To improve access to health care and nutrition for the 60,000 refugees living in Tamil Nadu, mainly women and children.	200,000
TOTAL	2,000,000

Grants for the implementation of humanitarian aid within the meaning of Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid are awarded in accordance with the Financial Regulation, in particular Article 110 thereof, and its Implementing Rules in particular Article 168 thereof.¹⁸

Rate of financing: In accordance with Article 169 of the Financial Regulation, grants for the implementation of this Decision may finance 100% of the costs of an action.

Humanitarian aid operations funded by the Commission are implemented by NGOs and the Red Cross organisations on the basis of Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) (in conformity with Article 163 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation) and by United Nations agencies based on the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA). The standards and criteria established in Echo's standard Framework Partnership Agreement to which NGO's and International organisations have to adhere and the procedures and criteria needed to become a partner may be found at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/partners/index_en.htm

¹⁸ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002, OJ L248 of 16/09/2002 and No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002, OJ L 357 of 31/12/2002.