



Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision

23 02 01

Title: Emergency Assistance to the victims of floods and landslides in Bolivia

Location of operation: BOLIVIA

Amount of Decision: EUR 1,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/BOL/BUD/2006/01000

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population.

1.1. - Rationale:

Bolivia has experienced heavy rainfall since late December 2005. During the first three weeks of January, the rainfall was particularly intensive, producing serious flooding, river overflowing and landslides in six of the nine departments of Bolivia¹. The pluviometry in January exceeded estimations by 145% in the *Altiplano* area (Andean region) and by 134% in the Chaco region.

According to the national Meteorology service (SENAHMI), the high rainfall trend will continue as it is just the beginning of the rainy season, and extreme rainfall, electric and hail storms are expected for the next months.

On the night of **26 January**, the Bolivian government declared, by supreme decree, a **national emergency situation**, and appealed for international assistance. The decree was published and disseminated on 27 January.

First estimations of the National Defence Institute indicated that about 34,000 families were affected by heavy rains during January over most of the northern Bolivian regions, based on data provided by the municipalities.

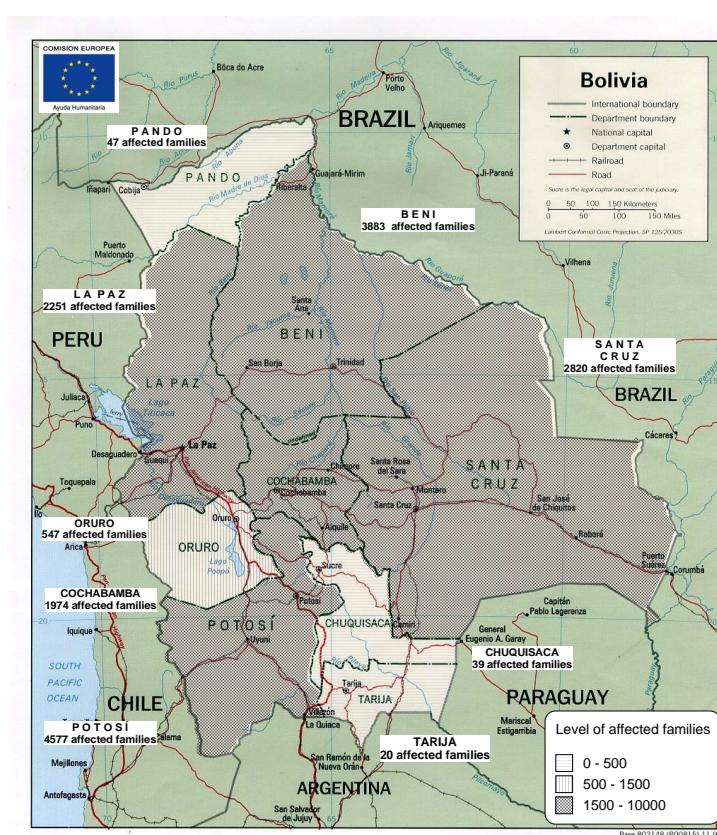
Floods and mudslides triggered by heavy rains have left at least 17 dead and 79 wounded as of 8 February. The city of Cochabamba has officially declared a health emergency. The Pan

¹ Santa Cruz, La Paz, Potosi, Beni, Cochabamba, Tarija
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American Health Organisation (PAHO) is collaborating with the Ministry of Health, in order to carry out activities to control dengue, malaria, yellow fever, etc.

Up to now the final number of displaced people is not available except for Santa Cruz Department where 14,100 people² have been evacuated to temporary refuges. Almost 2,450 dwellings have been completely destroyed. In addition to the loss of their homes, many families have also lost their crops, which constitute their only source of food and income. Four of the affected departments (La Paz, Potosi, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz) report losses in papas, corn, wheat, soy and rice. In Santa Cruz department, the Eastern Agricultural Chamber reports that 60,000 hectares of soy crops have been destroyed.

Most of the affected communities have experienced damage to major roads and bridges, and/or gas and water pipeline ruptures, causing difficulties in accessing affected areas. Landslides, road obstructions and damage to small bridges have been reported across the country, especially in La Paz, Beni and Potosi departments causing the isolation of several rural communities.



Following six rapid needs assessment missions coordinated by UNDP, first estimates have been fine-tuned. As of 6 February, 16,158 families have been affected by the floods, which represents around **80,790 people**. The most affected departments, with a total of 15,505 affected families, are Potosi, Santa Cruz, La Paz, Beni, and Cochabamba.

The Bolivian Civil Defence has responded to the emergency by distributing tents, blankets and medicines. However, the number of affected families currently supported by humanitarian assistance does not cover the full range of needs and the Civil Defence stock is almost exhausted.

WFP has already assisted 745 affected families in the departments of Santa Cruz and La Paz, some of them located in shelters. UNICEF is complementing the WFP food rations with specialized nutritional supplements for children. IFCR has launched an appeal for flood relief of US\$.83.837.

² Source : UN rapid needs assessment (6 February 06)
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The government of Bolivia is requesting international support as the local capacity is insufficient, the location of the disaster is very difficult as far as access is concerned, and the affected population is in movement.

Bolivia is a highly disaster-prone area and, as the poorest country of South America, is characterized by extreme vulnerability:

- 34.3% of the population lives in poverty and 14.4% in extreme poverty (UNDP 2005)
- 26.5% of children under 5 years old suffer from chronic malnutrition (ENDSA 2003)
- 51% of children under 5 years old suffer from anemia (ENDSA 2003)
- In rural areas, access to basic services is limited. Only 44% of the population has access to safe drinking water while basic sanitation facilities are only available for 35% of the population
- 66% of the population (INE 2001 census) is Indian and suffers from harsh social exclusion

A DG ECHO mission was deployed to Bolivia from 31 January to 7 February in order to assess the humanitarian situation in the disaster-affected areas and to help to design DG ECHO's intervention. With the support and in close collaboration with the EC Delegation, a meeting was called with DG ECHO partners operating in the country with the aim of coordinating the humanitarian assistance response³. The following conclusions were reached:

- An aggravation of the situation is highly probable, due to the fact that the rainy season is just beginning;
- The affected families are especially vulnerable people, with few possibilities of coping and with significant needs in terms of water and sanitation and crop recovery. Some clear needs to improve disaster management and preparedness have been identified;
- Almost all the funds/ resources already pledged by different donors are focused on the very short-term emergency stage, but needs for the following months in remote areas are not covered.

1.2. - Identified needs:

The identification of the extent of the needs is progressing slowly due to the difficult access to some of the affected areas. The rainy season started in January and many roads and bridges have already collapsed or have been cut off by flooding.

With very poor road infrastructure, access to most of the territory represents a real challenge to the evaluation teams and even worse, to the most affected areas. Therefore it is very difficult to assess precisely the extent of the effects of the floods.

Moreover, the civil Defence institution staff had only been officially in post for two weeks when the emergency occurred, making the collection of data difficult to organize (lack of a civil Defence network in the affected areas (for example, in the south of the Potosi department, Lipez north and south municipalities). Although the UN family⁴ has been mandated by the Bolivian President to assist the government in this emergency response assessment, they are experiencing the same challenges as regards evaluating the needs, because of restricted access.

³ 15 ECHO partners were represented.

⁴ UNDP was requested by President Morales to coordinate the international humanitarian response
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Finally, the Bolivian Government does not have the appropriate means to fly over the affected areas: except for the availability of one helicopter, it relies on external support from foreign governments to help moving government official to the affected areas. This explains why there is no official estimation of the economic and material losses for the whole country; in La Paz department alone the first loss estimation amounts to US\$ 10 million for infrastructure and US\$ 15 million for the agricultural sector (mainly soy bean producers).

The primary needs reported by Civil Defence and UNDP (acting as humanitarian aid coordinator) are for safe drinking water, sanitation, health, shelter, food aid, non-food items and disaster preparedness :

- Immediate *distribution of safe drinking water* to around 25,000 people is necessary as well as the provision of non-food items such as hygiene, kitchen kits, candles, etc. for at least 2,000 families (approximately 10,000 people). The affected population needs regular provision of drinking water and basic sanitation services. Domestic and hygiene items need to be provided.
- *Safe sanitation, initially prioritising environmental sanitation*: drainage of stagnant waters, removal of dead animals, vector control (mosquitoes, rats, snakes and other reptiles), latrine rehabilitation, solid waste management for around 25,000 people. It is important to underline the significance of the sanitary conditions, mainly due to the fact that latrines and septic tanks have been flooded and water has been contaminated. Victims are exposed to the threat of diseases (respiratory infections, diarrhoea, dengue and leptospirosis) from being in contact with polluted water. Many are already suffering from diarrhoea and vomiting. In this context, children, women and the elderly are especially vulnerable groups whose special needs must be taken into account.
- *Temporary shelters for displaced people*: for the moment, more than 14,100 people are living in temporary shelters and are receiving some humanitarian assistance mainly through the Civil Defence.
- *Emergency rehabilitation of health centres and schools*: The water systems of health centres are vital to maintain minimum quality assistance. In isolated communities located in remote areas, basic services such as water systems in health centres/schools have to be restored as soon as possible to avoid a further deterioration of the situation which would then require a full and heavy rehabilitation.
- *Food aid* for 7,000 families (approximately 35,000 people) : Provision of food rations is important not only for the population housed in public shelters but also for those who will be returning to their homes once the water levels descend or once the levels of soil saturation by rainfall drop to normal. Most vulnerable communities have lost their main food and income source due to heavy rains and floods. Due to the loss of harvest in the rural areas, in a period of two to three months from now, this lack of food production might generate a deficit in the food security conditions and have a potential negative impact on coping mechanisms at household level. According to VAM⁵, almost 60% of the affected municipalities are medium- to highly-vulnerable to food insecurity. Because of that, there is an urgent need for food aid as well as for logistical means to carry out the distribution of food and other relief items in the flooded areas, some of which are inaccessible by road. In order to prevent a deterioration of the nutritional status of the most vulnerable populations, these families require continued relief assistance. This kind of assistance is particularly relevant in a country where 26.5% of children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition and any external shock immediately leads to an upsurge in acute malnutrition rates.

⁵ Vulnerability Assessment Mapping-WFP
ECHO/BOL/BUD/2006/01000

Furthermore, agricultural activities have been severely affected by the floods. It is therefore important to help restore livelihoods through the promotion of short-term emergency agricultural activities (distribution of seeds, agricultural inputs and tools). In the medium-term, food distribution will need to be complemented by food security activities.

- *Disaster risk reduction* should be mainstreamed as much as possible in humanitarian operations, not only through the inclusion of specific disaster preparedness and mitigation activities, but also through the adoption of a risk reduction approach in the humanitarian response activities. In order to achieve this, training/awareness-raising on disaster risk reduction for 4,000 families and authorities will be carried out in the framework of this Decision. This component will complement the forthcoming three DIPECHO projects to be implemented in Santa Cruz, La Paz and Potosi departments.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

The Decision will target a population of 6,000 families (around 30,000 people) living in the most severely affected departments of Bolivia.

Operations will need to take into account the special needs of vulnerable groups such as children, women, elderly, disabled and indigenous minorities.

To the extent possible, priority will be given to isolated communities in the most remote areas. Children under five will be given special attention in the regions with high rates of malnutrition and anemia. Women heads of family should also be preferential beneficiaries of the humanitarian assistance.

Priority will also be given to operations that mainstream disaster risk reduction in their relief activities as the population targeted by this Decision will most probably continue to live in disaster-prone areas .

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints:

Weather conditions in the forthcoming weeks constitutes the main handicap if rain continues and forecasts by SENAHMI do not foresee any improvement. The risk of further rainfall or landslides could worsen the sanitary and familial food security situation, and increase the needs to be covered.

Worsening climatic conditions may hamper the return of evacuees and the normal resumption of basic activities, causing further damage to systems that are repairable in the short term, impeding access to beneficiaries for the distribution of food rations, or preventing a reasonable level of livestock production.

Access to isolated areas might also be difficult as a consequence of the floods on the road or bridge infrastructures which are partially damaged or destroyed.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed: ⁶

⁶ 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 Art.110 thereof, and its Implementing Rules in particular Art.168 thereof (Council ECHO/BOL/BUD/2006/01000

2.1. - Objectives:

Principal objective:

To preserve lives and alleviate the suffering of the populations affected by the floods and landslides in Bolivia

Specific objective:

To assist the victims of floods and landslides with integrated relief and restoration of basic livelihoods

2.2. - Components:

The components funded under this Decision mainly include the following:

- Water and Sanitation: water supply, waste disposal and latrines, rehabilitation of water systems, provision of hygiene kits, water treatment.
- Health: basic preventive and curative health care, drugs supply.
- Food Aid/Security: Food aid distribution, short-term emergency agricultural activities (seeds, tools, agricultural inputs). Agricultural activities will be coordinated with the EC Food Security Programme in Bolivia.
- Emergency repairs to health centres and schools. Water and sanitation system repair
- Disaster preparedness: training and awareness-raising of targeted population and authorities, mitigation works

3 - Duration expected for actions in the proposed Decision:

The duration of humanitarian aid operations shall be 6 months from their starting date.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 26 January 2006.

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 operations.

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

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

Rate of financing: In accordance with Art.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 http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/partners/index_en.htm.

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 ECHO operations in BOLIVIA

Decision Number	Decision Type	1999 EUR	2001 EUR	2002 EUR
ECHO/BOL/210/1999/01000	Emergency decision	500,000		
ECHO/BOL/210/1999/02000	Ad hoc decision	500,000		
ECHO/TPS/210/2001/06000*	Emergency Decision		1,950,000	
ECHO/TPS/210/2002/17000*	Ad hoc decision			1,300,000
	Subtotal	1,000,000	1,950,000	1,300,000
	Grand Total	4,250,000		

Dated : 07/02/2006

Source : HOPE

*these decisions also cover Paraguay and Peru.

5 - Other donors and donor co-ordination mechanisms.

Donors in BOLIVIA the last 12 months

1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others***	
	EUR		EUR		USD
Austria		ECHO	820,000	OCHA	30,000
Belgium		Other services	26,270,000	BID	200,000
Cyprus				CAF	200,000
Czech Republic				UNDP	100,000
Denmark				Government of Japan	100,000
Estonia				Government of USA	900,000
Finland					
France					
Germany	180,000				
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland					
Italy					
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg					
Malta					
Netherlands					
Poland					
Portugal					
Slovakia					
Slovenia					
Spain	500,000				
Sweden	15,594				
United kingdom					
Subtotal	695,594	Subtotal	27,090,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	27,785,594		

Dated : 07/02/2006

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

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

** 21.5 M euro from bi-lateral cooperation and 4.7 M euro from the NGOs budget line

***pledges in response to the current flood emergency situation

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 preserve lives and alleviate the suffering of the populations affected by the floods and landslides in Bolivia.</i>			
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Potential partners⁷
Specific objective 1: To assist the victims of floods and landslides with integrated relief and restoration of basic livelihoods	1,000,000	Departments affected by floods and landslides in Bolivia	- CARE NEDERLAND (FORMER DRA) - COOPI - CROIX-ROUGE - ESP - OIKOS - OXFAM - UK - SAVE THE CHILDREN - UK - UN - WFP-B
TOTAL: 1,000,000			

⁷ COOPERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE (ITA), CRUZ ROJA ESPAÑOLA, (E), OIKOS - COOPERAÇÃO E DESENVOLVIMENTO, OXFAM (GB), Stichting CARE Nederland, THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND (GBR), UN - WORLD FOOD PROGRAM - LIAISON OFFICE

7 - Budget Impact article 23 02 01

-	CE (EUR)
Initial Available Appropriations for 2006	470.429.000
Supplementary Budgets	-
Transfers Commission	-
Total Available appropriations	470.429.000
Total executed to date (8/2/2006)	245.157.235
Available remaining	225.271.765
Total amount of the Decision	1,000,000

COMMISSION DECISION
of
on the financing of emergency humanitarian operations from the general budget of the
European Union in
BOLIVIA

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 aid⁸, and in particular Article 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Rainfall in January in several departments of Bolivia has far exceeded the historical average, creating an emergency situation and killing at least 17 people, affecting more than 80,000 and causing huge damage to the houses, crops and basic infrastructures of already vulnerable populations;
- (2) The Bolivian Government declared a “state of national emergency” on 26 January 2006 and has asked for international assistance;
- (3) Heavy rains are expected to continue over the coming weeks, according to meteorologists, as Bolivia's rainy season continues;
- (4) The European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid (DG ECHO) has participated in rapid needs assessment and coordination meetings with the international community to ensure that unmet needs for affected populations are dealt with;
- (5) Humanitarian aid operations financed by this Decision should be of a maximum duration of 6 months;
- (6) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 1,000,000 from budget line 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to over 30,000 people affected by the floods, taking into account the available budget, other donors-contributions 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 1,000,000 for emergency humanitarian aid operations to provide the necessary assistance and relief to 30,000 victims of floods in Bolivia by using line 23 02 01 of the 2006 general budget of the European Union.

2. In accordance with Article 2 (a) of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective:

- To assist the victims of floods and landslides with integrated relief and restoration of basic livelihoods.

The total amount of this Decision is allocated to this objective.

Article 2

1. The implementation of humanitarian aid operations funded by this Decision shall have a maximum duration of 6 months from their starting date.

2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 26 January 2006.

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 humanitarian aid operations.

Article 3

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission