



Brussels, 17.10.2012
C(2012) 7097 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 17.10.2012

**on a measure in favour of Sierra Leone to be financed from the 10th European
Development Fund**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000¹, as revised at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 22 June 2010² (hereinafter referred to as the "Cotonou Agreement"), and in particular Article 34 of Annex IV thereto,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 617/2007 of 14 May 2007 on the implementation of the 10th European Development Fund under the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement³, and in particular Article 7 thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 215/2008 of 18 February 2008 on Financial Regulation applicable to the 10th European Development Fund⁴ and in particular Article 29(1)(a) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the Country Strategy Paper for Sierra Leone and the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2008-2013⁵, point 1.2.1 of which mentions the following priorities: good governance and institutional support; rehabilitation of priority infrastructure; general budget support.
- (2) As a response to identified Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) challenges, the Government launched the Free Health Care Initiative (FHCI) in April 2010. Targeting pregnant & lactating women as well as children under 5, the FHCI is the core Government strategy towards attainment of MDGs 4 & 5. FHCI is embedded in the National Health Sector Strategic Plan (NHSSP 2010-2015) and the Basic Package for Essential Health Services (BPEHS 2010). It includes both provision of free care for the targeted groups and reinforcement of services (investments, provision of free drugs to health facilities, financial compensation for staff). So far, FHCI has increased attendance levels at health facilities and demand from the population (public health service utilisation greatly increased since the beginning of 2011). However, this

¹ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

² OJ L 287, 4.11.2010, p.3

³ OJ L 152, 13.6.2007, p.1.

⁴ OJ L 78, 19.3.2008, p.1.

⁵ C(2007)5788. The CSP/NIP was signed on 9/12/2007.

important increase in utilisation made it clear that the different health system components (drugs supply, service provision, monitoring and evaluation, leadership and governance) need further reinforcement.

- (3) Commission Decision C(2011)9773 of 15 December 2011 allocated funds to an initiative in support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries and invited ACP States to submit projects and programmes demonstrating how additional funding could contribute to improving the trend towards the attainment of the following MDGs: MDG 1.c "*Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger*", MDG 4 "*Reduce child mortality*", MDG 5 "*Improve maternal health*" and MDG 7.c "*Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation*".
- (4) The objective pursued by this measure is to contribute to the Government of Sierra Leone's efforts to attain the MDGs, notably MDG 4 and 5 by improving the health status of children and pregnant / lactating women, by strengthening health systems and increasing the capacity of the Government and community institutions to deliver quality and equitable health services.
- (5) The measure covered by this Decision is in conformity with the objectives of development finance co-operation as defined in Article 55 of the Cotonou Agreement.
- (6) This Decision constitutes a Financing Decision within the meaning of Article 16 of Annex IV to the Cotonou Agreement and Article 67 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the 10th European Development Fund.
- (7) It is appropriate to define the term "substantial change" within the meaning of Article 7 of Regulation (EC) N° 617/2007 to ensure that any substantial change in this Decision shall follow the same procedure as the initial Decision.
- (8) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the European Development Fund Committee set up by article 8 of the Internal Agreement of 17 July 2006.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The measure "MDG Initiative in Sierra Leone – Bridging the gaps to attain MDG 4 & 5", in favour of Sierra Leone, the text of which is set out in the attached Annex, is approved.

Article 2

The maximum contribution of the European Union to this measure is set at EUR 24 200 000, to be financed from the 10th European Development Fund.

Article 3

Cumulated changes of the allocations to the specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution authorised by this Decision and shall not be considered substantial, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the measure. This may include an increase of the maximum contribution authorised by this decision of up to 20%.

The relevant authorising officer may amend the present Decision to introduce non-substantial changes in the Financing Agreement in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

Done at Brussels, 17.10.2012

For the Commission
Andris PIEBALGS
Member of the Commission

"ANNEX

MDG Initiative in Sierra Leone – Bridging the gaps to attain MDG 4 & 5"