

COMMISSION DECISION
of
on the financing of emergency humanitarian operations from the general budget of the
European Communities in
Vietnam

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 aid¹, and in particular Article 2(a) and 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Central Vietnam has been seriously affected by typhoon Lekima and massive flooding triggered by heavy rains from 3 October 2007;
- (2) The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies released a preliminary emergency appeal on 10 October 2007, later confirmed by the emergency appeal of 17 October 2007;
- (3) More than half a million people have been made homeless by the floods and more than 137,000 houses have been destroyed or flooded;
- (4) Victims are in urgent need of food and non-food supplies, emergency shelter, clean water, emergency sanitation, emergency livelihood recovery and other relief assistance;
- (5) The duration of humanitarian aid operations financed by this decision will be of a maximum of 6 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 Communities is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to the victims of the typhoon and floods in Vietnam, taking into account the available budget, other donors' intervention and other factors.
- (7) The present Decision constitutes a financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002², Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002³, and Article 15 of the Internal Rules on the Implementation of the general budget of the European Communities⁴.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

¹- OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6

²- OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1995/2006, OJ L 390, 30.12.2006, p.1

³- OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1 Regulation as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC Euratom) No. 478/2007, OJ L 111 of 28.4.2007, P. 13

⁴- Commission Decision of 21.02.2007, C/2007/513

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 emergency humanitarian aid operations to provide the necessary assistance and relief to the victims of the typhoon and floods in Vietnam from budget line 23 02 01 of the 2007 general budget of the European Communities.
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: Provision of life saving support and early recovery assistance to victims of the typhoon and floods.

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 **3 October 2007**.
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

1. The Commission shall implement the budget by direct centralised management or by joint management with international organisations.
2. The actions supported by this decision will be implemented by humanitarian aid organisations that are signatories to the Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) or the EC/UN Financial Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA).
3. Taking account the specificities of humanitarian aid, the nature of the activities to be undertaken, the specific location constraints and the level of urgency, the activities covered by this decision may be financed in full in accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation.

Article 4

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission



Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision

23 02 01

Title: Emergency Aid to the victims of the typhoon and floods in Vietnam

Location of operation: Vietnam

Amount of Decision: EUR 2,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/VNM/BUD/2007/01000

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population.

1.1. - Rationale:

On the night of 3 October 2007, typhoon Lekima hit Vietnam, causing significant damages to infrastructure, followed by heavy rains which caused extensive flooding from 4 to 6 October. The typhoon, with strong winds of up to 130km/hour and heavy rainfall, particularly affected the provinces of Ha Tinh and Quang Binh on 3 and 4 October, together with three other provinces. Six provinces were already under water as result of incessant rainfall over the three days before the typhoon struck. In the aftermath of the typhoon further heavy rain hit the provinces of Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, Nghe An, Thanh Hoa, Ninh Binh, Hoa Binh and Son La. In total, 10 provinces have been seriously affected and a further 17 provinces are more lightly affected.

One dam under construction in Thanh Hoa was damaged on 4 October, inundating a large part of Tho Xuan and Thieu Hoa districts. Evacuees of typhoon Lekima who returned to their homes were forced to re-evacuate due to rising flood waters. Some who couldn't be evacuated on time had to seek refuge on trees and roofs. River water overflowing the dykes has forced the evacuation of an additional 54,000 residents along the Ma River.

In the mountainous areas of the Nghe An province, flash floods were caused by severe damage to several small dams on the morning of 6 October, cutting off some roads. Flash floods also occurred in three other provinces.

These disastrous floods occur just two months after extensive flooding hit Central Vietnam, thus affecting the same population already badly affected in August, whose coping capacities

have progressively been exhausted by these consecutive disasters. The present floods are judged by many stakeholders as the worst for many decades.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) launched a preliminary Emergency Appeal on 10 October for an amount of EUR 1,940,274, seeking to support the Vietnam national Red Cross in assisting affected populations with emergency relief⁵.

Three joint assessment teams composed of national authorities, the Vietnam Red Cross, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UNICEF⁶ and WHO⁷, were dispatched on Tuesday 9 October to the three most affected provinces, namely Ha Tinh, Nghe An and Thanh Hoa. Their debriefing took place on Monday 15 October and confirmed the extent of the destruction, the limited response from the authorities and the need for international actors to provide assistance

Figures of the Central Committee for Floods and Storms Control (CCFSC) as of 15 October state that 9,505 houses have collapsed, 127,551 houses have been submerged and damaged and that 150,000 ha of rice fields and other cultures have been wiped out or inundated.

The casualty figures so far are quite limited considering the extent of the floods. The figure given by the CCFSC is of 82 dead and 9 missing on 15 October 2007. This is mainly due to the extensive disaster preparedness work which allowed some 400,000 people to be evacuated from the at-risk areas (10,000 of them under Vietnam Red Cross supervision) before the typhoon made a landfall⁸.

1.2. - Identified needs:

The most urgent needs appear to be the following:

- food: families stranded in areas surrounded by the waters are in urgent need of food support. Once the waters recede, the most vulnerable families will have to be assisted in order to compensate for the loss of food stocks. So far, only rice and salt, in very unequal quantities, have been distributed in some areas.
- emergency water and sanitation: supply of drinking water is necessary for the affected families. Flood water is filthy, contains a lot of debris and dead animals and is a significant potential hazard for the affected population. Many wells have been contaminated by the floods and need to be rehabilitated.
- non-food items: affected households urgently need cooking and kitchen utensils, mosquito nets, blankets, water containers, etc to replace lost items.
- shelter and rehabilitation of housing: some shelter assistance might be necessary in terms of tarpaulins. Tools and other materials will also be necessary to rehabilitate damaged houses.
- health care: preliminary assessments show that this sector is largely covered so far, but unforeseen needs might emerge in case of high incidence of vector diseases caused by stagnant waters.

⁵ - Appeal n° MDRVN002, 10 October 2007, Glide n° TC-2007-00178-VNM

⁶ - United Nations Children Fund

⁷ - World Health Organization

⁸ - <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/07/07100802/>. Article by Joe Lowry and Tao Vandang, IFRC website, 8 October 2007.

- livelihoods: the cumulative impact of the August and October floods has seriously affected livelihoods. The population will need to be assisted in recovering their livelihoods, particularly through distribution of tools and agricultural inputs.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned :

The floods are seriously affecting ten provinces, out of 27 provinces touched to one degree or another. The population of these 27 provinces is 20 million. It is estimated so far that around two million people⁹ have been affected by the floods. The most affected communities belong to minority tribes such as Muong and Thai.

The ten most affected provinces are Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, Ninh Binh, Hoa Binh, Som La, Yen Bai, Phu Tho and Thura Thien Hué.

A number of established DG ECHO¹⁰ Partners are present in the affected regions, especially DIPECHO¹¹ partners.

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints:

The monsoon period is ongoing in Vietnam and further typhoons and floods could hamper the relief activities and further affect beneficiary populations.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. - Objectives:

Principal objective: Emergency aid to the victims of the typhoon and floods in Vietnam.

Specific objectives:

- Provision of life saving support and early recovery assistance to victims of the typhoon and floods.

2.2. - Components:

- emergency food packages,
- provision of drinking water and assistance with rehabilitation of water supply and sanitation systems,
- non-food relief items
- shelter and emergency rehabilitation of housing,
- public health and hygiene awareness
- primary health care
- emergency support to livelihood rehabilitation including seeds and tools
- logistics and transport.

⁹ Source: IFRC

¹⁰ - Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid - ECHO

¹¹ DIaster Preparedness ECHO

3 - Duration expected for actions in the proposed Decision:

The duration of humanitarian aid operations shall be 6 months. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from **03/10/2007**.

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 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 Viet nam				
Decision Number	Decision Type	2005 EUR	2006 EUR	2007 EUR
ECHO/VNM/BUD/2006/01000	Emergency		460,000	
	Subtotal	0	460,000	0
	Grand Total	460,000		

Dated : 17 October 2007
Source : HOPE

DG ECHO has been present in Vietnam with its disaster preparedness programme (DIPECHO) since 1998. Under the ongoing 5th DIPECHO Action Plan for South East Asia¹² 7 projects are being currently implemented. Vietnam receives about EUR 2,000,000 out of EUR 7,000,000 for in-country disaster preparedness projects in addition to regional initiatives. The Vietnam Red Cross has not only been benefiting from, but also has been closely involved in the various DIPECHO projects which have contributed to its capacity building and organisational strengthening.

5 - Overview of donors' contributions

Donors in Viet nam the last 12 months

¹² ECHO/DIP/BUD/2006/01000

1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria		DG ECHO	460,000		
Belgium		Other services			
Bulgaria					
Cyprus					
Czech republic					
Denmark					
Estonia					
Finland					
France	170,000				
Germany	586,952				
Greece	30,000				
Hungary					
Ireland					
Italy					
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg	200,000				
Malta					
Netherlands					
Poland					
Portugal					
Romania					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain					
Sweden	144,477				
United kingdom					
Subtotal	1,131,429	Subtotal	1,460,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	1,591,429		

Dated : 17 October 2007

(*) Source : DG ECHO 14 Points reporting for Members States. <https://hac.ec.europa.eu>
Empty cells means either no information is available or no contribution.

6 - Amount of decision and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1. - Total amount of the decision: EUR 2,000,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: <i>Emergency aid to the victims of the typhoon and floods in Vietnam</i>			
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Potential partners¹³
Specific objective 1: Provision of life saving support and early recovery assistance to victims of the typhoon and floods	2,000,000	Vietnam	- ACTIONAID - CARE-DE - CR-E - CRF - DWF - IFRC-FICR - SC(UK) - UNICEF
TOTAL: 2,000,000			

¹³- ACTIONAID (GBR), CARE INTERNATIONAL DEUTSCHLAND E.V. (DEU), CROIX-ROUGE FRANCAISE, CRUZ ROJA ESPAÑOLA, (E), Development Workshop France, FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE, THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND (GBR), UNICEF

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 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/evaluation/index_en.htm.

8 - Budget Impact article 23 02 01

	CE (EUR)
Initial available appropriations for 2007	485.000.000,00
Transfers Commission	-
Total available appropriations	485.000.000,00
Total executed to date (17 October 2007)	462.075.694,95
Available remaining	22.924.305,05
Total amount of the Decision	2.000.000,00

9. MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Humanitarian aid actions funded by the Commission are implemented by NGOs, Specialised Agencies of the Member States, and the Red Cross organisations on the basis of Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) 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/partners/index_en.htm.

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.