



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,  
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**COMMISSION DECISION**

**of**

**on the financing of humanitarian Actions in the Philippines from the general budget of  
the European Union**

**(ECHO/PHL/BUD/2010/01000)**

## COMMISSION DECISION

of

**on the financing of humanitarian Actions in the Philippines from the general budget of the European Union**

**(ECHO/PHL/BUD/2010/01000)**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Articles 2 and 4 and Article 15(3) thereof;

Whereas:

- (1) Since August 2008, the renewed conflict between the Government of the Philippines and the Muslim rebel group MILF in the southern island of Mindanao has provoked prolonged displacement ;
- (2) The cease fire declared by both parties at the end of July 2009 has not triggered the expected return;
- (3) As of October 2009, the caseload of internally displaced people (IDPs) is estimated at around 300,000 people. The situation in which they have been since the beginning of the crisis is far below any recognized humanitarian standard.
- (4) The evolution of the situation in 2010 is difficult to predict: status quo, deterioration or improvement of the situation which could allow IDPs to go back or resettle. The humanitarian response to the situation has to be very flexible in order to assist IDPs, host communities and returnees in an adequate manner.
- (5) To reach populations in need, humanitarian aid should be channelled through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and International Organisations including United Nations (UN) agencies. Therefore the European Commission should implement the budget by direct centralized management or by joint management;
- (6) An assessment of the humanitarian situation leads to the conclusion that humanitarian aid Actions should be financed by the European Union for a period of 15 months;

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

- (7) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 5,000,000 (EUR 2,000,000 from budget article 23 02 01 and EUR 3,000,000 from budget article 23 02 02) of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to over 300,000 displaced persons, returnees or host communities, taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions and other factors. Although as a general rule Actions funded by this Decision should be co-financed, the Authorising Officer, in accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation, may agree to the full financing of Actions;
- (8) The present Decision constitutes a financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002<sup>2</sup>, Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002<sup>3</sup>, and Article 15 of the internal rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Union<sup>4</sup>;
- (9) In accordance with Article 17(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1257/96, the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave a favourable opinion on 10 December 2009.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### *Article 1*

1. In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of EUR 5,000,000 for the financing of humanitarian Actions in the Philippines (EUR 2,000,000 from budget article 23 02 01 and EUR 3,000,000 from budget article 23 02 02) of the 2010 general budget of the European Union.
2. In accordance with Articles 2 and 4 of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the principal objective of this Decision is to provide integrated humanitarian assistance to populations in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao. The humanitarian Actions shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objectives:
- To assist people in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao with integrated life-saving assistance.
- A total of EUR 2,000,000 is allocated to this specific objective from budget article 23 02 01.
- To assist people in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao with food assistance and livelihood recovery.
- A total of EUR 3,000,000 is allocated to this specific objective from budget article 23 02 02.

#### *Article 2*

1. The period for the implementation of the Actions financed under this Decision shall start on 1 January 2010 and shall run for 15 months. Eligible expenditure shall be committed during the implementing period of the Decision.

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<sup>2</sup> OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1.

<sup>4</sup> Commission Decision of 5.3.2008, C/2008/773

2. If the implementation of individual actions is suspended owing to force majeure or other exceptional circumstances, the period of suspension shall not be taken into account in the implementing period of the Decision in respect of the Action suspended.
3. In accordance with the contractual provisions ruling the Agreements financed under this Decision, the Commission may consider eligible those costs arising and incurred after the end of the implementing period of the Action which are necessary for its winding-up.
4. The Authorising Officer may, where this is justified by the humanitarian situation, extend the duration of the Decision for a maximum of 6 months provided that the total duration of the Decision does not exceed 18 months, in accordance with Article 90.4 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation.

#### *Article 3*

1. As a general rule, Actions funded by this Decision should be co-financed.  
The Authorising Officer, in accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules, may agree to the full financing of Actions when this will be necessary to achieve the objectives of this Decision and with due consideration to the nature of the activities to be undertaken, the availability of other donors and other relevant operational circumstances.
2. Actions supported by this Decision will be implemented either by Non-profit-making organisations which fulfil the eligibility and suitability criteria established in Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96, or by International organisations.
3. The Commission shall implement the budget:
  - either by direct centralised management, with Non-governmental Organisations,
  - or by joint management with international organisations that are signatories to the Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) or the EC/UN Financial Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) and which were subject to the four pillar assessment in line with Article 53d of the Financial Regulation.

#### *Article 4*

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

#### *Article 5*

This decision is addressed to the delegated authorising officer.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Commission  
Member of the Commission*



**Humanitarian Aid Decision  
23 02 01 and 23 02 02**

Title: Commission decision on the financing of humanitarian Actions in the Philippines from the general budget of the European Union.

Description: Humanitarian assistance for populations in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao.

Location of Action: The Philippines

Amount of Decision: EUR 5,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/PHL/BUD/2010/01000

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**Supporting Document**

**1 - Rationale, needs and target population.**

1.1. - Rationale:

More than one year after the failed signature of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) which would have granted more autonomy to the Muslims in Mindanao and the subsequent eruption of violence, around 300,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are still living in extremely difficult conditions in evacuation centres, relocation sites and with host families. Compared to previous violent episodes over the last ten years, the number of civilians directly affected by this most recent escalation of hostilities has remained dramatically high, with no clear end in sight.

In April 2009, a new military commander was appointed to the operations in Mindanao. The government dropped demands for the surrender of commanders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) held responsible for the 2008 attacks but simultaneously intensified army operations with the aim of finding them. This offensive provoked new displacements.

At the same time, the Government of the Philippines (GoP) and the armed forces were adopting an hostile attitude towards aid agencies, denouncing the "leaking" of food and medical supplies provided to IDPs in evacuation centres to the MILF, recommending that food distribution to IDP centres in MILF areas should be stopped.

On 23 July 2009, however, the government declared a suspension of military operations (SOMO), closely followed on 25 July by the MILF who declared a suspension of military actions (SOMA). A Joint Statement was issued by both parties on 29 July in Kuala Lumpur, referring to the aborted Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MoA-AD) as an *"unsigned and yet initialled document"*, agreeing to work on a *"framework agreement on the establishment of a mechanism on the protection of non-combatants in armed conflict"* (Civilian Protection Mechanism, CPM) and on a *"framework agreement on the establishment of an International Contact Group (ICG) or groups of states and non-state organizations to accompany and mobilize international support for the peace process"*. Members of the ICG could be EU Member States and representatives of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

On 15 September, the GoP and the MILF reached a Framework Agreement in Kuala Lumpur on the formation of an International Contact Group. Terms of Reference should be worked upon, although the MILF seems to indicate that it should be up to the ICG to develop its own mandate. No final decision has been taken yet on the composition of the group.

An agreement on the CPM should intervene at the moment of writing this financing decision. Without an effective CPM, the MILF said they could not give the go-ahead to the IDPs to go back. This firm commitment to return, both from MILF and from the GoP, is what is currently lacking to convince IDPs to return.

In the meantime, although there is a view that no general agreement will happen under this administration, the resumption of talks is on its way. Both parties remain publicly committed to the peace process, but it is to be expected that those who had opposed the signature of the MoA-AD in August 2008 will let their voices be heard on any further project aiming at granting more autonomy to Muslims in Mindanao.

As far as humanitarian assistance is concerned, the situation remains grim. All the challenges that were present at the beginning of the crisis are still there: the issue of figures of IDPs, the lack of coordination, the security situation and threats against humanitarian personnel, the limited visibility of this crisis and the scarce funding allocated to it, etc.

Clusters have been put in place but not all are functioning. The government is taking the lead through several agencies. Lately, cluster meetings have become more or less regular, but they are considered rather inefficient. The newly arrived OCHA<sup>1</sup> representative is trying to put in place some mechanisms and a mapping of the assistance provided.

As far as protection is concerned, apart from the protection activities covered by ICRC (defence of international humanitarian law (IHL), treatment of war-wounded, visits to detainees etc), protection activities in Mindanao are scarce and underfunded. Figures are lacking on intra-family violence or gender-based violence, but it can be estimated that they are significant, as is generally the case in displacement situations, where family ties are under pressure in overcrowded and tense situations. In January 2009, the government decided to push IDPs to return, which created obvious concerns about possible forced return. The international community voiced its concerns, asked for measures of protection and the government eventually stepped back.

Lack of information to IDPs about reliable return possibilities, livelihood opportunities, but also land grabbing, harassment, clan feuds, etc. are factors that, outside the concerns they raise for the IDPs security, are likely to keep them in evacuation centres.

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<sup>1</sup> UNITED NATIONS, OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS - OCHA

Food assistance has been provided in blanket distributions since the beginning of the displacement. ICRC<sup>2</sup> and WFP<sup>3</sup>, the two main providers of food, are coordinating their distributions. Their rations are complementary and are calculated on the basis of 5 persons per family, which appears to be too little. Figures of beneficiaries diverge from one organization to the other, WFP distributing on the basis of official lists and ICRC on the basis of their own assessment. WFP also distributes food to home-based IDPs, whereas ICRC does not. For security reasons, ICRC stopped their distributions in September 2009 and are about to resume by the end of October.

Water and sanitation remain one of the biggest concerns, if not the biggest. The situation was already serious before the August 2008 crisis, but it has deteriorated since then. The access to clean water in Central Mindanao is a challenge although the area is made of marshes and is often flooded. The lack of access to clean water appears to be one of the major factors in acute malnutrition cases and is the major cause of deaths among the IDPs and host families. Provision of proper sanitation facilities in the congested displacement sites and the environment where the ground water level is high is extremely difficult.

According to a WFP/UNICEF survey, the results of which were published June 2009, 80% of the IDPs are considered food insecure. The nutritional situation of the conflict affected populations is serious and needs to be monitored, however it is not alarming thanks to the ongoing food distributions. Malnutrition figures are high but so far under the emergency threshold (global acute malnutrition (GAM) is estimated at around 10%). Supplementary feeding should be provided to vulnerable people, and especially to infants and pregnant and lactating women.

As far as livelihoods are concerned, it appears that IDPs have developed some limited coping mechanisms that allow part of them to compensate the fact that food rations distributed do not provide for a full basket and the loss of or the difficult access to their lands. However, a general characteristic of the IDP situation is their heavy indebtedness. It is estimated that farmers usually give away 90% of their crops to money lenders.

Access to health services is problematic, as the local health structures are overstretched due to the presence of IDPs. ICRC, MSF<sup>4</sup> and ACH<sup>5</sup> are providing some limited assistance especially in Maguindanao through mobile clinics, the training of local health staff, provision of equipment, medical supplies and refurbishing of water and sanitation installations if necessary. The main concern is the risk of outbreaks of water borne diseases due to the lack of clean water in evacuation centres. DG ECHO<sup>6</sup> partners on the ground recently responded to a suspected cholera outbreak with water trucking to the most vulnerable locations.

Shelter is inadequate. In evacuation centres, people have built small shacks with anything they have at hand: wood, palm leaves, tarpaulins, rice sacks etc. In relocation sites, where "bunkhouses" have been erected by the authorities, the situation is not better. The space available to each family does not reflect any recognized standards, the materials provided are of bad quality and IDPs end up filling the holes in the worn out tarpaulins with rice sacks and palm leaves.

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<sup>2</sup> COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE – ICRC-CICR

<sup>3</sup> WORLD FOOD PROGRAM - WFP

<sup>4</sup> MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES - MSF

<sup>5</sup> ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM - ACH

<sup>6</sup> Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid - DG ECHO

Since the suspension of military operations, it is estimated that between 5,000 and 9,000 families, mainly in the provinces of Lanao del Sur and North Cotabato, have gone back without support. The big return that was expected initially did not materialize because IDPs are still scared for their lives and security and so far, have not received any guarantee for safe return from any party to the conflict. Many people, especially in Maguindanao, will have nowhere to return to because their land has been confiscated by powerful families who want to affirm their stake in the process.

A lot of discussion on repatriation is happening between the central government and seventeen mayors of Maguindanao, where IDPs come from. WFP has been approached with request for potential support to the repatriation process. WFP plans to support the IDPs' return, if voluntary and organized, by provision of a return package and assistance for the first months into the return, in order to enhance its sustainability.

ICRC is providing return packages with food for 2 months consumption and non-food items such as tarpaulins, mats and mosquito nets to help returnees restart a living.

In 2010, the evolution of the situation can follow several trends:

- Status quo, at least until the April 2010 elections, with ongoing displacement at similar level and very few of returns. This would imply supporting the IDPs at the same level as today, with the widest range of services possible in order to offer them a comprehensive assistance. Food assistance, upgraded shelter assistance, water and sanitation, health, protection, etc. should be the main sectors of intervention.  
Limited assistance to returns should also be provided.
- Massive return of IDPs to their places of origin and/or resettlement. This is only likely to happen if peace talks are formally resumed and there is a clear signal given to IDPs that it is safe enough to go back. This would be a challenge in terms of humanitarian assistance since it would imply mobilizing the necessary resources to provide a return package to all returning families and ensuring the sustainability of the move through the provision of adequate assistance in the places of origin or resettlement. Humanitarian agencies would have to be flexible enough to adapt quickly their ongoing operations to the new situation.
- Deterioration of the situation triggered by a suspension of the ongoing talks, renewed fighting, widespread violence in the run-up to the elections, etc. There are some signals that this scenario is likely to materialize. This would entail new displacements, with a bigger number of people to cater for. At the current funding level, this would also be a big challenge for humanitarian agencies, which so far have been largely underfunded in the response to the crisis in Mindanao. The international community should be better mobilized and the government of the Philippines should accept more readily the need to appeal for international funding.

If the situation allows, LRRD will be applied as early as 2011 with the foreseen allocation of funds under cooperation instruments from EuropeAid dedicated to uprooted people. This new allocation of funds would target specifically the persons displaced by the 2008 conflict.

#### 1.2. - Identified needs:

All the sectors of humanitarian assistance mentioned above should be supported in 2010, including coordination. For each sector, the possibility of the three scenarios should be taken on board:

- Food assistance should go on for the people still displaced in order to ensure a basic food basket. It should also be provided as return packages and possibly as a support to restart a living in the places of origin or resettlement.
- Water and sanitation: access to clean water should be enhanced for IDPs, for host-communities and for communities of return. Sanitation is still totally inadequate in displacement sites and should be improved.
- Nutrition: some supplementary feeding would be necessary for infants and pregnant and lactating women.
- Livelihoods: support to livelihood recovery is necessary for the IDPs who return to their villages or who decide to resettle elsewhere. Most of them have lost all their assets and need assistance to restart a living.
- Shelter assistance needs to be upgraded in order to provide displaced people with humane living conditions. Some help should also be provided to returnees or resettled people in order to allow them to repair their houses or restart their lives.
- The health sector has been largely underfunded in the response to the displacement crisis. Local structures need to be reinforced and in general, access to health needs to be improved for displaced people, returnees and host communities. This should include psycho-social support, especially for children and the most vulnerable.
- Protection should be looked into more carefully, with actions targeting especially women and children.
- Coordination is still lacking and should be reinforced, including information management.

### 1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

The population targeted by the present decision is the whole population affected by the conflict; the IDPs and the host communities, as well as the returnees. The provinces where the assistance is likely to be concentrated are Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Lanao del Sur and del Norte, but other provinces might be targeted if necessary.

### 1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints:

The security situation could deteriorate in the run up to the elections, with the following factors to be taken into consideration:

- Election-related violence.
- Repeated and increased kidnappings jeopardising the delivery of humanitarian assistance
- Sporadic clashes with the New People's Army (communist insurgency) will continue
- Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah to continue operating
- Criminality is expected to increase ahead of the elections
- Rido (clan feud) could provoke short-term displacement

On top of security, natural disasters are likely to happen during the implementation of the activities. Mindanao is a disaster-prone region, often affected by typhoons and floods. Central Mindanao is mainly marshlands, which are often flooded during the rainy season.

## **2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:**

### 2.1. - Objectives:

Principal objective: To provide integrated humanitarian assistance to populations in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao.

Specific objectives:

- To assist people in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao with integrated life-saving assistance.
- To assist people in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao with food assistance and livelihood recovery.

### 2.2. - Components:

The components of this operation include the following sectors and activities, aiming at providing the most comprehensive assistance to IDPs and support to voluntary and dignified return:

- Food assistance: food distributions to IDPs, return packages for returnees and possible assistance in the place of return and resettlement.
- Water and sanitation: access to clean water in camps (water trucking, wells, etc) and in host communities. In places of return and resettlement, agencies should look into the issue of access to clean water and if relevant, provide some adequate assistance. As far as sanitation is concerned, the improvement of sanitation in displacement sites should be pursued.
- Nutrition: supplementary feeding for infants and pregnant and lactating women, surveillance.
- Livelihoods: support to livelihoods recovery for the IDPs who return to their villages or who decide to resettle elsewhere.
- Shelter assistance to improve living conditions in displacement sites and to ensure humane conditions in the places of return and resettlement.
- Health: assistance to local structures through training, provision of equipment and medicines, assistance to the vulnerable population in displacement sites and host communities through mobile clinics, including psycho-social support.
- Protection activities, with a focus on women and children.
- Coordination and information management : reinforcement of clusters, mapping of activities through the establishment of a 3W (who, what, where) database, production of humanitarian updates, enhancement of coordination between authorities and the humanitarian community.

## **3 - Duration expected for Actions in the proposed Decision:**

The duration for the implementation of this Decision shall be 15 months.

Humanitarian Actions funded by this Decision must be implemented within this period.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 1 January 2010.

Start Date: 1 January 2010.

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 Actions.

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 the PHILIPPINES				
Decision Number	Decision Type	2008 EUR	2009 EUR	2010 EUR
ECHO/DIP/BUD/2008/02000 (*)	Non Emergency	1,795,412		
ECHO/PHL/BUD/2008/01000	Emergency	4,000,000		
ECHO/PHL/BUD/2008/02000	Emergency	2,500,000		
ECHO/PHL/BUD/2009/01000(*)	Non Emergency		3,000,000	
ECHO/PHL/BUD/2009/02000(*)	Prim. Emergency		2,000,000	
ECHO/PHL/BUD/2009/03000	Emergency		7,000,000	
	Subtotal	8,295,412	12,000,000	0
	Grand Total	20,295,412		

Dated : 26 November 2009  
Source : HOPE

(\*) decisions with more than one country

Since the beginning of the displacement crisis in August 2008, DG ECHO has allocated EUR 6,500,000 in emergency funding in 2008 and 3,000,000 in 2009 to assist IDPs in Mindanao.

## 5 - Overview of donors' contributions:

Donors in the PHILIPPINES the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria		DG ECHO	14,499,655		
Belgium	300,000	Other services			
Bulgaria					
Cyprus					
Czech republic	100,000				
Denmark					
Estonia					
Finland					
France	810,000				
Germany	2,457,872				
Greece	100,000				
Hungary	6,390				
Ireland	399,995				
Italy	916,561				
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg	450,000				
Malta					
Netherlands	100,000				
Poland	20,620				
Portugal					
Romania					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain	1,550,000				
Sweden	1,958,270				
United kingdom	271,350				
Subtotal	9,441,058	Subtotal	14,499,655	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	23,940,713		

Dated : 26 November 2009

(\*) Source : DG ECHO 14 Points reporting for Members States. <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hac>

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

Outside DG ECHO, the main donors for the displacement crisis in Mindanao since August 2008 have been Japan and USAID (mainly with in-kind food), Germany, Canada and Spain. The CERF has also been involved with two distinct responses, in August 2008 with USD 2,080,292 and in the summer of 2009, with USD 5,000,000.

## 6 - Amount of Decision and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1. - Total amount of the Decision: EUR 5,000,000

## 6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

<b>Principal objective:</b> To provide integrated humanitarian assistance to populations in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao				
<b>Specific objectives</b>	<b>Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)</b>	<b>Geographical area of operation</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Potential partners<sup>7</sup></b>
Specific objective 1: To assist people in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao with integrated life-saving assistance	2,000,000	Mindanao	Access to clean water and sanitation, shelter, health including psycho-social, protection, coordination including information management, support to voluntary and dignified return	<u>Direct centralised management</u> - ACH- ESP - MSF - CHE - OXFAM - UK - SAVE THE CHILDREN - UK <u>Joint management</u> - IOM - OCHA
Specific objective 2: To assist people in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao with food assistance and livelihood recovery	3,000,000	Mindanao	Provision of food assistance including supplementary feeding and livelihood recovery.	<u>Joint management</u> - ICRC-CICR - WFP-PAM
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>			

<sup>7</sup> ACCION CONTRA EL HAMBRE, (ESP), COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR), INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (INT), MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES - SUISSE (CH), OXFAM (GB), THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND (GBR), UNITED NATIONS, OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

## **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 Actions financed by the Union in order to establish whether they have achieved their objectives and to produce guidelines for improving the effectiveness of subsequent Actions". 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/policies/evaluation/introduction\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/evaluation/introduction_en.htm).

## **8 – Management issues:**

Humanitarian aid Actions funded by the Commission are implemented by NGOs and the Red Cross National Societies on the basis of Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA), by Specialised Agencies of the Member States 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/about/actors/partners\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/about/actors/partners_en.htm).

For NGOs, Specialised Agencies of the Member States, Red Cross National Societies and International Organisations not complying with the requirements set up in the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Union for joint management, actions will be managed by direct centralised management.

For International Organisations identified as potential partners for implementing the Decision, actions will be managed under joint management.

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.