



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels
C(2009) XXX final

COMMISSION DECISION

of

**on the financing of disaster preparedness actions in the Pacific from the general budget
of the European Union**

(ECHO/DIP/BUD/2009/07000)

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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 aid¹, and in particular Article 2(f) and Article 15(2) thereof;

Whereas:

- (1) The Pacific region is one of the most disaster-prone areas in the world, particularly exposed to natural disasters such as cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, tidal surges, landslides, flash floods, droughts, forest fires, volcano eruptions, as well as epidemics;
- (2) Local communities are particularly vulnerable to all aforementioned disasters, and the losses these cause are significant both in social and economic terms;
- (3) The capacity of Pacific countries to cope with the large number of disasters occurring in the region is insufficient and aggravated even further by climate change, calling for international support to preparedness and small-scale mitigation actions;
- (4) 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;
- (5) Past experiences from other regions and stakeholder consultations carried out lead to the conclusion that Disaster Risk Reduction activities should be financed for a period of 18 months;
- (6) For the purposes of this Decision, the Pacific countries involved are Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji through regional initiatives;
- (7) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 1,500,000 from budget article 23 02 03 of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide disaster preparedness activities (including public awareness measures); this amount will allow for community-based activities through consolidated pilot actions and transfer of experience, the development of innovative measures, as well as the development of focused regional or national actions to improve community-based inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) frameworks. This amount takes into account the available budget, other donors' contributions and other factors. The activities covered by this

¹ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

Decision may be financed in full in accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation;

- (8) 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 Union⁴;

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 1,500,000 for the financing of disaster preparedness actions in the Pacific from budget article 23 02 03 of the 2009 general budget of the European Union.
2. In accordance with Article 2(f) of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the principal objective of this Decision is to reduce the vulnerability and increase the coping capacities of populations in the Pacific living in areas most affected by recurrent natural disasters.

The disaster preparedness Actions shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective:

- To increase resilience and reduce vulnerability in local communities and institutions through support to strategies that enable them to better prepare for, mitigate and respond to natural disasters.

The full amount of this Decision is allocated to this specific objective.

Article 2

1. The period for the implementation of the Actions financed under this Decision shall start on 15 December 2009 and shall run for 18 months. Eligible expenditure shall be committed during the implementing period of the Decision.
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.

² OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1.

³ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1.

⁴ Commission Decision of 5.3.2008, C/2008/773

Article 3

1. In accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules and having regard to the Urgency of the Action, the availability of other donors and other relevant operational circumstances, funds under this Decision may finance humanitarian Actions in full.
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 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
Peter Zangl, Director-General



**Humanitarian Aid Decision
23 02 03**

Title: Commission Decision on the financing of disaster preparedness actions in the Pacific from the general budget of the European Union.

Description: To reduce the vulnerability and increase the coping capacities of populations in the Pacific living in areas most affected by recurrent natural disasters.

Location of Action: Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji (for regional initiatives)

Amount of Decision: EUR 1,500,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/DIP/BUD/2009/07000

Supporting Document

1 - Rationale, needs and target population:

1.1. - Rationale:

According to Article 2(f) of Humanitarian Aid Regulation (EC) of 20 June 1996¹, DG ECHO's² activities in the field of Disaster Preparedness shall be to “*ensure preparedness for risks of natural disasters or comparable circumstances and use a suitable early-warning and intervention system*”.

The Pacific region features among the most disaster prone regions in the world in terms of recurrence, severity and scope of hazards, with high exposure to cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, tidal surges, landslides, flash floods, drought, forest fires, volcano eruptions, as well as epidemics. This is compounded by environmental degradation and climate change. As reflected by DG ECHO's increased funding of relief over the last two years, the region is facing both major disasters and recurrent medium scale events³. According to a recent World Bank report⁴, between 1950 and 2004, extreme natural disasters accounted for 65% of the total economic impact from disasters on the region's economies. Ten of the fifteen most extreme events reported over the past half a century occurred in the last fifteen years”. While

¹ EC Regulation N°1257/96 of 20 June 1996, OL L163 of 02.07.1996

² Directorate-General for humanitarian aid – ECHO

³ Solomon Islands (2007, 2008, 2009), Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Samoa (2009)

⁴ “Not if but When, Adapting to natural hazards in the Pacific Islands Region, a Policy note”, World Bank, 2006, http://www.preventionweb.net/files/1141_NaturalHazardsPacific.pdf

the number of mortalities and people affected can appear rather low in usual disaster statistics, the Pacific countries rank among the highest in the number of casualties and people affected per 100,000⁵.

Under this Action Plan, Melanesia and specifically **Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands** will be targeted as a priority, given their classification as countries with the lowest capacities to handle disasters and highest disaster risks⁶. Their human development index figures are also very low on a world-wide⁷ scale. During the period 2000-2009, disasters have caused enormous economic damage in the three countries, with some USD 115.4 million (~ EUR 79 million) losses since 2009 and increasing annual averages.⁸

Climate change are putting at high risk many of the Pacific countries, for which sea level rise, increased erratic and violent disasters and other challenges are scientifically recognised as pressuring effects⁹. Countries will face more and more disproportionately high economic, social and environmental costs, while increased exposure to risks is eroding the traditional coping and resilience mechanisms of populations and local institutions. Geographical isolation and remoteness exacerbate the situation.

As an indication of the vital importance of the issue, the Pacific countries have been among the first to adopt a Regional Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Framework for Action and set up a Regional DRR Platform (2009), in accordance with their commitment to the implementation of the **Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA): "Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters"**¹⁰. **Vanuatu and Solomon Islands** are respectively implementing and developing DRR strategies and legal frameworks which will be followed-up by action planning. **Papua New Guinea** is yet to develop such frameworks.

The European Union (EU), in its' recent Communications: "EU Strategy for Supporting Disaster Risk Reduction in Developing Countries" (2009)¹¹, "A Community Approach on the Prevention of Natural and Man-made Disasters" (2009)¹² and "Towards a European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid" (2007)¹³, has clearly expressed its' commitment to further promote and implement DRR by:

- Promoting international efforts within the HFA to increase coping capacities at local, regional and national level through strategic planning and action;
- Integrating DRR in humanitarian and development operations; ensuring that adequate EU funding is made available for disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities;
- Establishing an overall EU policy approach to support action in this area.

1.2. - Identified needs:

In the Pacific Islands, some communities and local institutions have insufficient levels of awareness, knowledge, expertise, resources and formal mandate. Disaster preparedness

⁵ Source: EM-DAT: the OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database, www.em-dat.net - Université Catholique de Louvain - Brussels – Belgium.

⁶ Result of regional contingency planning exercise held in Fiji, OCHA, 2008. See also World Bank and SOPAC reports and statistics.

⁷ Human Development Index 2008 for Papua New Guinea is 149, Solomon Islands 134, Vanuatu 123 and Fiji 103, on a list counting 177 countries. 136. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/>

⁸ Source: EM-DAT.

⁹ See "Pacific Region – the EC Regional Strategy Paper and Regional Indicative Programme 2008-2013", on http://www.sprep.org/att/IRC/eCOPIES/Pacific_Region/357.pdf

¹⁰ <http://www.unisdr.org> and <http://www.preventionweb.net>

¹¹ COM (2009) 84 final, 23/02/2009

¹² COM (2009) 82 final, 23/02/2009

¹³ Doc. 6891/1/09 REV 1 + 6891/09 ADD 1 + ADD 2 + ADD 3 - COM(2009) 84 final; Doc. 7075/1/09 REV 1 + 7075/09 ADD 1 + ADD 2 - COM(2009) 82 final; COM(2007)317

activities will contribute to the reduction of important gaps, thanks to highly needed Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) models, with a handover perspective to longer-term DRR instruments and development programmes. The present decision will support a limited number of actions proposing a clear entry–exit strategy focusing on community-based pilots, as well as documentation and dissemination of the experience within the Pacific region.

The operations financed under the present decision will fill a gap at community level clearly identified and raised as a priority by Pacific Governments themselves,¹⁴ but also donors present in the region. Actions which have proven efficient in other regions and which in particular could be adapted and disseminated in the environment of small islands, while components adapted purely to the Pacific context can also be developed (e.g. ethnic and cultural specifics, isolation, shrinking space and livelihoods, resettlement options). There are also crucial needs for strengthening capacities of local disaster management groups, non-governmental organisations and associations, Red Cross national societies, local authorities and leaders.

The proposed models will look at innovative, low-cost, simple measures. This will pave the way for development initiatives including those in the pipeline from the EU's European Development Fund (EDF). Efforts will be made to link with programmes on environmental protection, natural and water resource management. In spite of the enormous geographical dispersion of Pacific countries, significant impact of the proposed measures can be achieved in a relatively short period, thanks to the existing DRR regional networks and national decision-makers. The proposed entry-exit strategy will involve over a limited number of cycles the completion of CBDRR models by implementing partners, in parallel to the development and implementation of promotional tools, advocacy measures at national and regional levels, good practice documentation, incorporation of traditional expertise in disaster risk management and sectoral planning, studies and assessment on local coping capacities and indigenous knowledge.

The proposed programme will take into account the benefits of inter-institutional coordination and stakeholder consultation and will build upon the experience of partners present in the Pacific and implementing relief, disaster preparedness and development actions. Participation in DRR and preparedness to respond as well as coordination frameworks allowing for standardised approaches and experience sharing will be required. Given the specificity of the region, with a large number of disseminated and remote islands, contingency planning efforts and pooling of resources at Pacific regional (Fiji) and sub-regional levels for logistics and communication, information management, consolidation of stockpiling systems are considered crucial and appropriate elements to the DRR framework and improved preparedness to respond mechanisms.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

The operations financed by the present decision will benefit **the most vulnerable** local communities, local institutions and organisations, decision makers and the general public in the targeted countries and regionally. Approximately **600,000 persons will be targeted**¹⁵, which includes local communities, children, youth volunteers and students, teachers, trainers, government officials at all levels, local disaster management committees, Red Cross members and volunteers, local non-government organisations, civil society associations, representatives

¹⁴ See Communiqué, Inaugural Pacific Regional Disaster Risk Management Meeting for CEOs of Finance/Planning and Disaster Management, July 2008, "A Call for Actions, as well as outputs of the First DRR Regional Platform, May 2009, <http://www.sopac.org/tiki-index.php>

¹⁵ The figure includes appr. 110,000 in local communities and 480,000 within the general public and regionally. The final figure will depend on proposals to be selected as well as local constraints.

of the media, general public. A larger indirect target group is expected to be reached within the Pacific region through awareness campaigns, contingency planning measures and experience sharing.

Melanesia: Possible **regional actions** in Melanesia, which may be extended to islands outside this zone, will concentrate on 1) networking, information management, training, communication, advocacy and awareness raising as well as compilation and dissemination of lessons learned, and harmonisation of approaches; 2) support to relevant DRR initiatives and regional frameworks such as the DRR Pacific Platform; 3) development of methodologies and promotional tools for advocacy and integration of DRR and in particular CBDRR in longer term instruments.

Multi-country actions addressing similar approaches, topics or hazards by single agencies or consortia can be considered. They should include experience sharing at regional level.

Vanuatu: Some 10,000 community members will be targeted through CBDRR measures in the most vulnerable communities prone to *earthquake, tsunami, storm surge, storms* as a priority, as well as prone to *volcanoes and floods*. Up to 30,000 persons in the capital will be targeted through public and awareness campaigns. Overall it is estimated that 20% of the population will be targeted directly and indirectly.

Solomon Islands: Some 50,000 persons will be targeted through CBDRR measures in the most vulnerable communities prone to *cyclones, storm surge, earthquake, tsunami* and floods. Up to 50,000 will be targeted in the capital through public and awareness raising campaigns. Overall some 20% of the population will be potentially targeted.

Papua New Guinea: Some 50,000 persons will be targeted through CBDRR in most vulnerable communities prone to *earthquake, , tsunami, storm surge* in coastal areas, as well as *volcanic eruptions, floods and landslides* in mountainous areas. Up to 400,000 persons will be targeted through public campaigns and awareness raising in the capital (250,000) and outside.

Fiji will not be targeted as such. However, as a hub for the Pacific DRR platform, for coordination, contingency planning and disaster preparedness and management, relevant personnel of institutions or organisations will be involved in the actions financed through the present decision. They can be also invited to events such as workshops, trainings, cross visits.

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints:

As a region with frequent natural hazards, the likelihood that disasters will occur during the implementation of this decision is extremely high. Such events can cause delays in implementation as disaster preparedness projects could be de-prioritised while partners respond to emergencies. This may also pose considerable workload on partners' human resources not only on the spot but also in the region. Furthermore, the disaster itself may prevent access to target beneficiaries and/or locations. Apart from potential large disasters, the frequency and scale of recurrent small and medium natural catastrophes may strain the capacities of local communities, authorities and governments.

Political and/or security instability can create severe working constraints and environments. This is the case in particular for Papua New Guinea and to a certain extent the Solomon Islands. Political instability in regional hubs such as Fiji can also cause additional constraints. In order to ensure the maximum success in achieving project objectives, DG ECHO will request its potential partners to have a proven DRR record and an operational presence in the target locations, thereby providing a pre-existing working relationship with local communities, local authorities and local organisations which should ensure a better potential for sustainability of the actions.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. - Objectives:

Principal objective: To reduce the vulnerability and increase the coping capacities of populations in the Pacific living in areas most affected by recurrent natural disasters.

Specific objective: To increase resilience and reduce vulnerability in local communities and institutions through support to strategies that enable them to better prepare for, mitigate and respond to natural disasters.

2.2. - Components:

Programme strategies which receive DG ECHO support will contribute to the Pacific DRR Framework for Action 2005-2015, the Pacific DRR Regional Platform, the Pacific Plan on Climate Change Adaptation, the Vanuatu National Action Plan for DRR and Disaster Management 2006-2016, the Papua New Guinea Disaster Mitigation Policy. They will also be implemented in conjunction with the appropriate institutions of national governments at all relevant levels, in particular the National Disaster Management structures and line ministries. Within the actions to be supported, DG ECHO will pay particular attention to the following themes adapted to the Pacific context:

- Adaptation and dissemination of DRR and Community-Based DRR models developed in other regions and experience related to *small island or hazard specific* contexts.
- **Capacity-building of local agencies and organisations**, in particular the Red Cross National Societies and any other Disaster Management mandated actors. When capacities exist, implementation through local actors should be considered.
- **Cross-cutting issues:** methodologies should be inclusive as far as gender, children, ethnic minorities, the disabled are concerned; environment protection and climate changed adaptation can be part of integrated DRR approaches.
- Support to relevant components and follow-up action plans of the respective biannual **World Campaigns on Safe Schools, Safe Hospitals, Safe Cities** promoted through the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).

As not everybody is familiar with CBDRR approaches, an inception phase for partners could be necessary in order to help defining common standards and frameworks, coordination and joint events mechanisms, identifying study and research needs, good practices development criteria etc.

2.2.1. - Disaster Preparedness Sub-Sectors:

- a) **Local disaster management components**, targeting local actors in disaster prone areas: **early warning systems, mapping and data computerisation, local capacity-building, training**. Non-exhaustive list of examples:
- Adaptation or development of CBDRR models¹⁶ appropriate for specific hazards, coastal or mountainous areas, remote/isolated contexts, small islands, as well as for ethnic or cultural specificities.
 - Models to be piloted should have a clear timeline and look at low-cost, affordable and user-friendly approaches.

¹⁶ Such models include integrated approaches including: Hazard and Vulnerability Capacity Assessment; identification, organisation and training of facilitators, leaders, disaster management actors; capacity-building, skill-building and equipment of local disaster management groups early warning systems; awareness-raising; community-mobilisation, contingency and emergency preparedness planning, simulation exercises etc.

- The focus should be on processes and development of appropriate systems at community level. Actions should include documentation and lessons learnt.
 - There should be progressive actions at national or sub-national levels aiming at sustaining CBDRR models or some of their components.
- b) **Institutional linkages and advocacy**, targeting institutions involved in disaster management/ disaster risk reduction, in particular at regional and national levels: **advocacy, facilitation of coordination, institutional strengthening**. Examples:
- Joint actions between DIPECHO partners and other DRR agencies at regional (Fiji), national and sub-national levels as appropriate, in order to develop, adapt or standardise common DRR messages, approaches and methodologies, advocacy measures, criteria for good practices etc.
 - Studies, surveys, workshops to assess and document indigenous and cultural practices, as well as to increase DRR knowledge.
 - Raising awareness on DRR through communication activities. This can imply capacity-building of communication actors/vectors (decision-makers, leaders, media representatives, teachers etc.).
 - Coordinated and collaborative regional and national programming for DRR, in particular through the Pacific DRR Regional Platform and in support of DRR National Platforms and Strategic Action Plans.
 - Strengthening institutional DRR capacities (e.g. Line Ministries, Disaster Management structures); training of decision-makers on the HFA.
 - Co-ordination facilitation, network development or strengthening (in particular for local organisations).
- c) **Information, Education, Communication: awareness raising among the general public, education measures**. Examples:
- In cities in particular: radio communication actions, media broadcasts, interaction with media, training of journalists and media students.
 - Adaptation of existing / production of joint innovative Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials; dissemination of good pre-existing materials.
 - Conferences, symposia, seminars, workshops, peer-to-peer awareness initiatives.
 - Awareness campaigns among the general public as well as targeted groups, in particular teachers, children; simulation exercises and mock drills.
 - Activities aiming to create a “culture of prevention” within the formal education system pursuing a change of attitude and practice; design, production or update of training materials for pupils; dissemination of good existing materials; training of teachers and pupils; simulations conducted at school level, school competitions.
 - Development and implementation of child-friendly DRR methodologies and approaches appropriate to Pacific Island isolated communities.
- d) **Small scale infrastructure and services**¹⁷, at community level: **infrastructure support and mitigation works, operation and maintenance systems; non-structural mitigation activities**. Examples:
- Provision of equipment and reinforcement of infrastructure to support disaster preparedness and contingency plans; low-cost, appropriate technical or scientific equipment; rehabilitation of evacuation routes; refurbishment of health posts; temporary shelter for evacuated populations and sign-posting of evacuation routes.

¹⁷ Such activities can be implemented only as a complement to the sub-sectors a), b) and c)

- Small-scale infrastructure works aimed at reducing the physical vulnerability of the beneficiaries, complementing the preparedness component of project strategy; training on maintenance systems; provision of knowledge and tools for replication of measures in neighbouring communities or for integration into local development plans.
 - Protection walls along river banks; structural works on existing public buildings to increase their resistance to disasters; identification and reinforcement of safe places; reforestation/plantation and other small scale action preserving the natural environment; small-scale drainage; and irrigation works.
 - Non-structural mitigation measures; improved methodologies for land-use planning, safer and affordable construction practices.
- e) **Stock-building of emergency and relief items¹⁸: reinforcing the capacity of local actors and institutions in disaster-prone areas by strengthening the response capacity in the early hours and days after a disaster.**
- Provision of basic equipment such as rescue kits and first aid kits complemented by training activities and maintenance mechanisms.
 - Stockpiling of response items at local level through mandated actors or entities and through well defined systems.
 - Strengthening of regional logistics and communication systems, information management, consolidation of stockpiling systems (at Fiji level through mandated regional organisations and linkages with national levels).

3 - Duration expected for Actions in the proposed Decision:

The duration for the implementation of this Decision shall be 18 months. Humanitarian operations funded by this Decision must be implemented within this period. The 18 months duration is requested in view of the nature of the proposed activities, requiring a substantial investment in processes and systems. Moreover, partners are encouraged to develop medium-term strategies for disaster risk reduction to which DIPECHO can contribute through focused or phased actions.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 15/12/2009.

Start Date: 15/12/2009.

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.

¹⁸ idem

4 - Previous interventions/Decisions of the Commission within the context of the current crisis

List of previous DG ECHO operations in FIJI/PAPUA NEW GUINEA/SOLOMON ISLANDS/VANUATU				
Decision Number	Decision Type	2007 EUR	2008 EUR	2009 EUR
ECHO/SLB/BUD/2007/01000	Emergency	550,000		
ECHO/-PA/BUD/2009/01000 (*)	Emergency			700,000
ECHO/PNG/EDF/2009/01000	Emergency			650,000
	Subtotal	550,000	0	1,350,000
	Grand Total	1,900,000		

Dated : 28 October 2009
Source : HOPE

(*) decisions with more than one country

5 - Overview of donors' contributions

Donors in FIJI/PAPUA NEW GUINEA/SOLOMON ISLANDS/VANUATU the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
		DG ECHO	1,350,000		
		Other services			
Austria					
Belgium					
Bulgaria					
Cyprus					
Czech republic					
Denmark					
Estonia					
Finland					
France	20,000				
Germany	296,059				
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland					
Italy					
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg					
Malta					
Netherlands					
Poland					
Portugal					
Romania					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain					
Sweden					
United kingdom					
Subtotal	316,059	Subtotal	1,350,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	1,666,059		

Dated : 28 October 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.

5.1. Coordination with other Commission departments:

The European Commission has, through its Country Strategy Papers and its Regional Programme, already integrated Disaster Risk Reduction issues¹⁹ through support to the implementation of the Pacific Plan, natural resource management and environmental protection. Disaster preparedness measures have also been supported under the EDF B-envelope targeting, i.a., Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

In addition, specific actions are being funded through the Africa, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) Natural Disaster Facility. Out of the EUR 12 million allocated under the 9th EDF for the ACP countries, EUR 1.868 million went to the Pacific Islands Applied Geosciences Commission (SOPAC). Under the 10th EDF, the Facility will be increased to EUR 180 million, part of which can be made available for the Pacific countries. Programming is ongoing and DG ECHO is in close contact with other EC services on this issue. Close coordination is also kept at field level with the two European Commission Delegations in Papua New Guinea (covering Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) and Fiji.

In addition, the region benefits from the Global Climate Change Alliance, as well as the Global Index Insurance Facility.

5.2. Member States:

France is present in the region through its Overseas Countries and Territories and provides cultural cooperation and support to the health sector at regional level, beside country cooperation with Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. Italy became a Post-Forum Dialogue partner in 2007 and is committed to the sustainable development of the region with the focus of cooperation on food security through FAO. Italy has committed EUR 8 million to key priority needs of the Pacific Island States for climate change and clean environment initiatives under Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol, including energy. Other countries, such as Austria, have also expressed an interest in participating in this initiative. France and the UK are present in Papua New Guinea and the latter keeps a close contact with the Pacific through the Commonwealth.

5.3. Other Donors:

Australia is by far the largest donor, with strong support to the Pacific Island countries addressing in particular health, good governance, institutional capacity-building and climate change adaptation with AUD 30 million for regional initiatives and fisheries support. A new Regional strategy is being developed, with continued support for the Pacific Plan. Australia, which has approved a DRR Strategy in 2009²⁰, is also a key DRR donor for the whole of Asia-Pacific. New Zealand is another significant regional donor, providing assistance to the Pacific in the areas of education, health, environment, governance, fisheries, trade and economic cooperation (EUR 25 million for 2006-2007). New Zealand AID (NZ AID) also funds a number of regional agencies and organizations, such as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. The World Bank is active through the Global Facility for Disaster Risk and Recovery, disaster risk management and sustainable management through reduced risk from disasters and climate. The World Bank funded the reference Study “Not if, but when: Adapting to natural hazards in the Pacific Islands Region, A Policy Note”, January 2006. The Asian Development Bank is supporting natural catastrophic risk insurance schemes, as well as

¹⁹ See http://www.sprep.org/att/IRC/eCOPIES/Pacific_Region/357.pdf

²⁰ http://www.ausaid.gov.au/hottopics/topic.cfm?ID=1350_5335_8516_6913_3537 and <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/keyaid/disasterriskreduction.cfm>

environment, regional DRR and climate change initiatives. Through the Global Environment Fund (GEF) – a multi-donor Fund managed by UNEP – 25 projects have been funded through the Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GPAS), with USD 125 million.

Ad hoc donor coordination initiatives exist for risk prevention and disaster preparedness under UN OCHA leadership. Climate change is becoming an increasingly important topic that all major donors are integrating into their programmes and in 2008 all donors with climate change related projects in the Pacific decided to meet on a regular basis. The European Commission is taking an active role in this coordination effort.

6 - Amount of Decision and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1. - Total amount of the Decision: EUR 1,500,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: To reduce the vulnerability and increase the coping capacities of populations in the Pacific living in areas most affected by recurrent natural disasters				
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Activities	Potential partners²¹
Specific objective 1: To increase resilience and reduce vulnerability in local communities and institutions through support to strategies that enable them to better prepare for, mitigate and respond to natural disasters.	1,500,000	Fiji Papua New Guinea Solomon Islands Vanuatu	Local and national disaster management components, Institutional linkages and advocacy, Information, education, communication, Small scale infrastructure and mitigation, Stock building of emergency and relief items	<u>Direct centralised management</u> - CROIX-ROUGE - FRA - OXFAM - UK - STC-SW - WORLD VISION DEU <u>Joint management</u> - IFRC-FICR - IOM - OCHA
TOTAL: 1,500,000				

²¹CROIX-ROUGE FRANCAISE, FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (INT), OXFAM (GB), RÄDDA BARNENS RIKSFÖRBUND, UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, WORLD VISION, (DEU)

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.

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.

For NGOs and Red Cross National Societies, 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.