



Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision

23 02 01

Title: Emergency humanitarian assistance to typhoon-affected populations in the Philippines

Location of operation: Philippines

Amount of Decision: EUR 2,000,000

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

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population.

1.1. - Rationale :

Between 27 September and 6 December 2006 four typhoons (Xangsane, Cimaron, Chebi and Durian) hit the Philippines. Typhoons are not uncommon in the region and most of the communities affected are accustomed to facing them. In general people have developed coping mechanisms to deal with the couple of dozen or so typhoons that strike each year. Early Warning Systems at the national level warn the local populations and evacuations with the assistance of the authorities and the involvement of the local Red Cross volunteers start on time to reduce the impact on lives and livelihoods. But the scale and frequency of this year's storms have left many people struggling to recover and local disaster response capacities have been exhausted and overwhelmed.

In the **Philippines** these typhoons caused extensive damage over a widespread geographical area including at least 20 provinces, of which five have been affected by more than one typhoon. The impact of typhoons Xangsane, Cimaron and Chebi resulted in pockets of major concentrated damage. Typhoon Durian reached the Philippines on 30 November 2006. Hitting Catanduanes with sustained winds of 190 kph near the centre and speeding up to 225 kph, the typhoon wreaked havoc in Catanduanes, Sorsogon, Albay, Mindoro Oriental and Occidental, parts of Camarines Norte and Sur, Marinduque, Batangas, Quezon and Laguna. It then struck the province of Albay and Sorsogon once more causing flooding and landslides. Increased volcanic activity of Mt. Mayon and Bulusan during the summer covered the surrounding areas with volcanic ash which was now washed away by rainfall to cover other areas. Some of the evacuation centres were also destroyed; large numbers of affected people

are finding temporary shelter in transitional centres like churches and schools or staying with relatives. Continuous rainfall in the affected area is further aggravating the situation and it is feared that the area cannot withstand further rains and flooding. Typhoon Utar arrived in the same area on 10 December 2006.

According to the National Disaster Coordination Council (NDCC) as of 12 December 2006, 643,927 families or 3,160,703 persons in 3,042 barangays of the 160 municipalities and 13 cities in 14 provinces of Regions IV-A, IV-B and V were affected. 19,484 families or 95,926 persons were evacuated to 531 designated evacuation centres. 715 people died, 2,174 were injured and 764 are missing. In total, 519,263 houses were damaged; 211,032 totally and 308,231 partially.

The President declared a state of national disaster and later on requested international assistance. Damage to properties¹ amounts to PhP 3,321,755,923.05 (~EUR 50,530,000), infrastructure PhP 1,325,776,000.00 (~EUR 20,170,000), schools 1,456,438,050.00 (~EUR 22,159,000) and agriculture PhP 539,541,873.05 (EUR 8,209,000). The impact of losses on the rice and corn production is minimal primarily because most crops have already been harvested this time and most farmlands are just being prepared for the coming cropping season.

Between 5 and 9 December 2006 DG ECHO² undertook an assessment mission to the typhoon-affected province of Albay, Philippines.

Earlier in 2006, DG ECHO had ceased its relief activities in the Philippines. However, DG ECHO will launch disaster risk reduction activities under the Fifth DIPECHO South East Asia Action Plan (ECHO/DIP/BUD/2006/01000) in which the Philippines has been re-included to further enhance the existing disaster risk reduction capacity.

1.2. - Identified needs :

Access to affected areas in the Philippines is still a challenge due to the damage to infrastructure and continuous rainfall. The relief response is led by the Philippines National Red Cross (PNRC) and coordinated by the provincial branches of NDCC, the PDCC.

According to DG ECHO's findings, coordination in the affected areas – even in Albay which can be reached more easily – is not well-established. An inventory of incoming donations and planned distributions as well as the registration of beneficiaries has still to be set up. Needs assessments in remote areas will require more time.

The immediate emergency needs to be covered are³:

- Emergency shelter: provision of temporary shelter and delivery of basic services to affected populations staying in evacuation centres.
- Water and sanitation: Provision of drinking water, water purifiers, purifying tablets, water containers, hygiene promotion
- Medical supplies: emergency health kits
- Emergency power supply – generators
- Food

¹ As of 9 December 2006

² Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid – ECHO

³ http://ndcc.gov.ph/ndcc/index.php?module=documents&JAS_DocumentManager_op=downloadFile&JAS_File_id=478

- Non-food items like mosquito nets, mattresses, blankets, cooking utensils, stoves, clothing.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned :

The target population is the most vulnerable population affected by typhoon Durian in the Philippines. In the Philippines the main impacted areas are Regions IV-A, IV-B and V with a special focus on the provinces of Albay, Camaines Sur and Catanduanes.

Relief assistance will be provided through partner organisations who have long been present in the affected area and who have sufficient implementation capacities on the ground.

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints :

As the typhoon season is continuing there is a risk of one more major typhoon. Continuing rainfalls, flooding and landslides may cut off remote needy areas, making access to the beneficiaries more challenging.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:⁴

2.1. - Objectives :

Principal objective: To respond to the humanitarian needs of typhoon-affected vulnerable populations in the Philippines

Specific objectives:

- To provide integrated relief assistance to the most vulnerable typhoon-affected communities in the Philippines

2.2. - Components :

The activities funded under this Decision include the following:

- Support to small-scale rehabilitation of houses destroyed by the typhoon. Repairs to buildings must reflect the disaster risk reduction concept as a preparedness measure that can be mainstreamed.
- Distribution of non food items, including blankets, mattresses, mosquito nets, basic household items, notably kitchen stoves.
- Provision of safe water supply (water distribution, water treatment, restoration of water systems) and activities restoring minimal sanitary and hygiene conditions with a special focus on evacuation centres.
- Personal and public health and hygiene campaign and provision of adequate hygiene materials to the most needy.
- Provision of emergency food.
- Provision of medical support to the most needy and vulnerable.
- Improved environmental sanitation.

⁴ Grants for the implementation of humanitarian aid within the meaning of Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid are awarded in accordance with the Financial Regulation, in particular Article 110 thereof, and its Implementing Rules in particular Article 168 thereof (Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002, OJ L248 of 16 September 2002 and No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002, OJ L 357 of 31 December 2002).

Rate of financing: In accordance with Article 169 of the Financial Regulation, grants for the implementation of this Decision may finance 100% of the costs of an action.

During the implementation of the Fifth DIPECHO South East Asia Action Plan in 2007 and 2008, the lessons learned from this year's typhoon season will be evaluated and used for further strategic planning in regard to mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction and identification of good practices for further dissemination and replication.

3 - Duration expected for actions in the proposed Decision:

The duration of humanitarian aid operations shall be 6 months from their start date. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 1 December 2006.

If the implementation of the actions envisaged in this Decision is suspended due to *force majeure* or any comparable circumstance, the period of suspension will not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the humanitarian aid operations.

Depending on the evolution of the situation in the field, the Commission reserves the right to terminate the agreements signed with the implementing humanitarian organisations where the suspension of activities is for a period of more than one third of the total planned duration of the action. In this respect, the procedure established in the general conditions of the specific agreement will be applied.

Philippines as of 8 December 2006

- AUSAID - AUD 1.0 Million (~ EUR 594,000) to support UNICEF and UNDP Projects
- US Agency for International Development (USAID) – USD 250,000.00 (~ EUR 188,000) as immediate cash assistance to relief organizations to procure emergency commodities such as blankets, mosquito nets, plastic mats and cooking utensils. This US assistance will also help finance the distribution of seeds to families whose crops were damaged by the typhoon as food for work program in Albay and further support local government efforts to clear roads and drainage infrastructure of debris.
- DFID: GBP 300,000 (~ EUR 444,000) as a contribution to the IFRC Revised Emergency Appeal (*MDRPH002*)
- Republic of Korea – USD 100,000 (~ EUR 75,000)
- China - USD 200,000 (~ EUR 150,000)

On 4 December 2006 the IFRC launched a Revised Emergency Appeal (MDRPH002) for the amount of EUR 5,552,350) covering a 9-month period and assisting 200,000 beneficiaries.

From the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), USD 2,654,255 (EUR ~ 2,014,000) was released to support the emergency relief and life-saving activities of the UN Agencies. On 15 December 2006 UNOCHA launched an Appeal to provide relief assistance for typhoon-affected populations in the Philippines to the amount of USD 48,703,941 (EUR ~ 36,900,000).

Several countries contributed with in-kind donations to the relief efforts.

At the request of the EC Head of Delegation, on 8 December 2006 the DG ECHO Regional Rapid Response Coordinator met the representatives of the EU Member States at the EC Delegation in Manila and briefed them about the humanitarian situation in the affected areas.

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>To respond to the humanitarian needs of typhoon-affected vulnerable populations in the Philippines</i>			
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Potential partners⁵
Specific objective 1: To provide integrated relief assistance to the most vulnerable typhoon-affected communities in the Philippines	2,000,000	PHILIPPINES	- ACH - CROIX-ROUGE - FICR-IFCR-CH - IOM - OXFAM GB
TOTAL: 2,000,000			

⁵ ACCION CONTRA EL HAMBRE, (ESP), FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (INT), OXFAM (GB)

7 - Budget Impact article 23 02 01

This decision will be funded through the remaining 2006 appropriations for an estimated amount of EUR 525,048 and the remainder estimated at EUR 1,474,952 from the 2007 budget

	CE (EUR)
Initial Available Appropriations for 2006	470,429,000
Other - re-use of assigned revenue	7,113,058
Transfers	140,000,000
Total Available Credits	617,542,058
Total executed to date (by 14/12/2006)	617,017,010
Available remaining 2006 Appropriations	525,048
Initial Available Appropriations for 2007	485,000,000
Other	
Transfers	
Total Available Credits	485,000,000
Total executed to date (by 14/12/2006)	0
Available remaining 2007 Appropriations	485,000,000
Total amount of the Decision	2,000,000

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

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 aid⁶, and in particular Article 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Between 27 September and 6 December 2006 four typhoons (Xangsane, Cimaron, Chebi and Durian) hit the Philippines.
- (2) The scale and frequency of this year's storms have left many people struggling to recover and local disaster response capacities have been exhausted and overwhelmed, typhoon Durian in particular causing huge damage to infrastructure, shelter and livelihood.
- (3) Typhoon Durian affected at least 3,000,000 people and damaged at least 500,000 houses fully or partially. Some 95,000 people had to be evacuated.
- (4) Humanitarian aid operations financed by this Decision should be of a maximum duration of 6 months.
- (5) 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 over **100,000 typhoon-affected people in the Philippines**, taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions and other factors.
- (6) The present Decision constitutes a financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002⁷, Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002⁸ and last amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1248/2006⁹, and Article 15 of the internal rules on the implementation of the general budget of the EC¹⁰.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of EUR 2,000,000 for emergency humanitarian aid operations to provide the necessary assistance and relief to **100,000 typhoon-affected**

⁶ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6

⁷ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1

⁸ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1

⁹ OJ L 227, 19.8.2006, p.3

¹⁰ Commission Decision of 06.02.2006, SEC(2006)131
ECHO/PHL/BUD/2006/01000

people in Philippines by using the remaining appropriations on budget line 23 02 01 of the **2006** general budget of the European Communities (estimated at EUR 525,048) and for the remainder (estimated at EUR 1,474,952) by using the appropriations on 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:

- To provide integrated relief assistance to the most vulnerable typhoon-affected communities in the Philippines

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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 **01 December 2006**.
3. If the operations envisaged in this Decision are suspended owing to force majeure or comparable circumstances, the period of suspension shall not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the humanitarian aid operations.

Article 3

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission