



Humanitarian Aid Decision

23 02 01

Title: Humanitarian aid for the populations affected by the conflict in Lebanon

Location of operation: MIDDLE EAST

Amount of Decision: EUR 30,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/-ME/BUD/2006/03000

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population.

1.1. - Rationale :

Following the capture of 2 Israeli soldiers on 12 July 2006, hostilities at the Israeli-Lebanese border turned into a large scale conflict between Hezbollah and the Israeli army with a significant human toll. The month-long conflict resulted in the death of 1.183 Lebanese and the injury of a further 4.055¹. In Lebanon, the bombing of Beirut, the Bekaa valley and the South of the country has caused massive displacement: figures reported by the Government of Lebanon's (GoL) Higher Relief Council (HRC) estimate that the total number of displaced amounted to 915,752 people, or a quarter of the country's total population². Of those, about 700,000 were displaced within Lebanon (565,000 had found refuge in host families and close to 130,000 were sheltered in public buildings) while almost 220,000 escaped the violence by fleeing to neighbouring countries, especially Syria³.

The Israeli attacks on Lebanon caused widespread damage to homes and civilian infrastructure, including 630 km of roads, 78 bridges, 32 vital points (airports, ports, water and sewage treatment plants, electrical plants, etc), 25 fuel stations, 72 over-passes and 15,000 private houses/apartments,⁴ leading to the disruption of essential services, and posing a serious challenge to the Lebanese authorities to ensure appropriate shelter, food, safe drinking water and health care for those affected.

As a result, the Lebanese authorities have asked for humanitarian assistance from the International Community. The European Commission adopted two emergency humanitarian decisions for a total of EUR 20 million for Lebanon and its neighbouring countries, respectively on 24 July 2006 and 26 July 2006, to immediately address the most urgent

¹ UN Revised Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP), 31. August 2006.

² OCHA, *Situation Report 14- Lebanon Response*, 6 August 2006..

³ Higher Relief Council, *Daily Situation Report. Sitrep No:15*, 8 August 2006..

⁴ Higher Relief Council, *Facts & Figures. Damages*, Updated 15 August 2006.

humanitarian needs identified right after the first attacks on Lebanon. The following sectors of intervention were included: shelter and non-food items, health, water and sanitation, food, psycho-social support, protection and coordination.

Following the unanimous adoption on 12 August 2006 of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 calling for a full cessation of hostilities, fighting stopped on 14 August 2006. The text of the Resolution (art. 6) also *"calls on the international community to take immediate steps to extend its financial and humanitarian assistance to the Lebanese people, including through facilitating the safe return of displaced persons and, under the authority of the government of Lebanon, reopening airports and harbours (...) and calls on it also to consider further assistance in the future to contribute to the reconstruction and development in Lebanon"*.

Despite a still unstable security situation, immediately following the cessation of hostilities IDPs returned in large numbers to their places of origin. Makeshift bridges have been constructed to allow vehicles to cross rivers. More than 90% of Lebanon's displaced have already headed home.⁵ Many of them found their homes and all their belongings destroyed. This was especially true in the southern strip of the country and in the Bekaa valley where whole villages, including most of the infrastructure (roads, bridges, plants, hospitals) were razed by the Israeli air strikes, as were whole neighbourhoods in southern Beirut. Consequently, in the aftermath of the conflict, substantial numbers of returnees and a small residual number of IDPs are in urgent need of immediate assistance. According to UNHCR, a total of 151,351 Lebanese refugees have returned to Lebanon from Syria, since August 14⁶. UNHCR reports still 2,500 Lebanese refugees in Syria⁷.

Since the cessation of hostilities on 14 August and the lifting of the Israeli blockade on 07 September the humanitarian situation has changed dramatically. DG ECHO⁸ was the first to send an international assessment mission to the south of Lebanon and to the Bekaa valley following the cessation of hostilities in order to evaluate the situation and determine the present and future needs. Its representatives organized a coordination meeting in Tyre on Thursday 17 August 2006. The NGOs present in the region, most of the UN agencies and ICRC attended the meeting.

The degree of destruction varies widely from one village to another within the region, according to the religious or political allegiance. In some areas, up to 50% of buildings are completely destroyed and most others damaged, but repairable.⁹ The destruction affected private houses and social institutions: schools, hospitals, health centres, etc. Water systems are heavily damaged and, as a consequence the majority of the villages south of the Litani river are without water supply. The Lebanese water department is currently assessing the damage in more detail, including an assessment of all drinking water supply sources in South Lebanon. Extensive destruction to roads, fuel stations, and commercial properties is also apparent. Due to the high rate of destruction in some villages and the lack of water and electricity supplies, many of the returnees are temporarily staying with families or friends, close to their destroyed homes.

The cessation of hostilities, though fragile, has made it necessary to adapt the humanitarian response to this crisis in order to address the immediate needs of the returnee population and the remaining needs of the residual caseload still hosted in collective centres. Whilst the prevailing humanitarian needs must urgently be addressed, Lebanon will progressively enter a recovery phase if the ceasefire holds. In parallel, reconstruction will start. Experience following the Tsunami, the earthquake in Pakistan and other humanitarian disasters in the last years has proven a simultaneous need for humanitarian and recovery/reconstruction aid for a limited period of time following the first emergency phase. The return of the displaced

⁵ UN Revised Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP), 31 August 2006

⁶ UNOCHA Situation Report 31 – Lebanon Response – 23 August 2006.

⁷ WHO Lebanon Crisis Health Situation Report No. 28, 23 August 2006

⁸ Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid - ECHO

⁹ UNOCHA Lebanon Crisis Situation Report No. 28, 20 August 2006

and refugee populations to their areas of origin needs to be accompanied, in an informed and coordinated way, by measures aimed at facilitating their resettlement in the best possible conditions: water and sanitation, health care, some material for transitional shelter, psycho-social support, income generation activities for those who have not recovered their previous activity (it is estimated that up to 75 % of the population countrywide is currently jobless), and protection from unexploded ordnance, until reconstruction takes place. This means that humanitarian aid will be needed through the coming winter for the returnee population.

With this third Lebanon Decision since the outbreak of hostilities DG ECHO aims at providing humanitarian and early recovery assistance to the returnee population and the residual caseload still hosted in collective centres. Operations funded under this decision will focus on demarcation, awareness and clearance of unexploded munitions, water and sanitation, shelter, and emergency health and food needs. Running over 18 month, the vast part of project implementation will take place in the coming six months in order to ensure a rapid humanitarian impact and assuming that recovery and reconstruction will start in parallel in line with pledges made at the Stockholm Donor Conference for Lebanon on 31 August. In addition to its humanitarian aid, the EC has already pledged EUR 42 million as a first contribution to Lebanon's recovery and rehabilitation. In line with the Lebanese Government's request for assistance, the Commission's package includes technical assistance to the government for the reconstruction process, focusing on infrastructure and environment; support for rule of law and improved internal security; and support for the Lebanese private sector to help relaunch the economy. However, the process of rebuilding, while already starting, will take some time. In order to ensure a smooth phasing from humanitarian aid to recovery and reconstruction a close coordination between the different services involved of the EC has been put in place. Furthermore, the humanitarian operations funded under this decision will be implemented in close consultation with Lebanese authorities and amongst Member States on the ground. Continuing the EC's humanitarian support while the recovery process starts in parallel will ensure that there will be no gaps in the funding and assistance to those who most need it.

1.2. - Identified needs:

Water and sanitation

The Lebanese Water Department will need assistance to repair large numbers of damaged water systems. The extent of damage is being assessed, but will obviously be extensive following the destruction of main pipelines due to the bombings. Additionally, even if not hit directly by the bombs, pipelines may have been fractured by underground shock waves and will need repair. Distribution networks and household storage tanks, usually situated on the roofs, have also been heavily damaged. The installation of autonomous water points (pumping systems and fuel-operated generators) to ensure a safe water supply to the population should be given priority. Monitoring of the water quality and of the sanitary/health environment will have to be carried out as well. Furthermore, public health is of serious concern as some municipalities have lost their equipment for waste collection and wastewater treatment systems have been damaged.

Shelter

Urgently needed shelter assistance should remain limited to temporary or transitional measures (tools, tents, basic building material), given the already resuming reconstruction efforts of the International Community and the heavy engagement of Hezbollah in the sector. However, temporary shelter is a crucial need for some of the displaced population,

especially during the coming winter. The rehabilitation of social structures damaged by the war (schools, hospitals and health centres) is necessary in order to allow them to resume their activities.

Food and non-food items

The population still living in collective centres as well as the vulnerable populations returning to their places of origin where they will find their belongings destroyed will need support in terms of non-food items and some focused food distribution in order to ensure their food security. The UN estimate that approximately 350,000 people need food assistance (130,000 in Southern Beirut, 200,000 in the South and 20,000 in other isolated areas).

Livelihood recovery

As a further consequence of the hostilities a significant proportion of the population has lost their jobs: the once booming tourism sector has come to a standstill, factories have been destroyed, etc. In order to allow the population to quickly recover their self-sufficiency, livelihood recovery and income generation activities will be necessary. These might take the form of structural support projects aiming at tackling some of the damage caused to the infrastructure by providing cash-for-work assistance

Health and psycho-social support

WHO is conducting an assessment of 800 health facilities (including dispensaries) in the country. Assistance to damaged hospitals, health centres and the health sector as a whole will be necessary in order to assure health services for the affected population. Vulnerable and/or heavily affected persons will need psycho-social assistance to overcome the trauma suffered during the war.

UXO clearance

The presence of unexploded ordnance is posing a hazard to the population returning to the areas where shelling was intense. According to the UN, since 26 August unexploded ordnance is killing on average one person a day and injuring three others.¹⁰ The UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) estimates that it could take up to 12 months to clear unexploded ordnance from Southern Lebanon. Approximately 8,500 pieces of Israeli ordnance have remained unexploded. Urgent assistance to this sector is important in terms of demarcation, clearance and awareness.

Coordination

In the fast changing context in Lebanon and in view of the multitude of humanitarian actors on the ground, coordination will be of the utmost importance in order to guarantee an efficient overall humanitarian response and to avoid duplication and/or gaps. Agencies will have to efficiently coordinate their relief efforts in order to ensure an equal distribution of the assistance according to the needs assessed. Entering the recovery process at the end of August, there is a need for strong links and coordination between humanitarian and recovery processes, ensuring that there will be no gap in the funding and assistance to those who most need it. Coordination will also be ensured with the action of the UNIFIL, including with regard to demining activities. ECHO's programs have been and will be implemented in close consultation with the Lebanese authorities to ensure a smooth phasing into the recovery phase.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

This Decision targets the war-affected population of Lebanon, including Palestinian, Iraqi and other refugees. Out of the 1.1 million displaced persons, ECHO aims at targeting around 350.000. Accordingly, all regions of Lebanon and neighbouring countries (Syria, Jordan) where they sought refuge are concerned.

¹⁰ WHO Lebanon Humanitarian Crisis situation report No. 28, 23 August 2006.
[ECHO-ME/BUD/2006/03000](#)

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints:

The truce in Lebanon is fragile and hostilities may resume. The evolution of the overall security situation largely depends on the success of a sustainable political solution to the crisis and its eventual implementation. The international force that should be deployed in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 1701 in the South of the country to assist the Lebanese army is arriving and will probably be a precondition in order for the fragile truce to be maintained.

It is assumed that the truce in place will persist in order to allow the carrying out of humanitarian relief operations in the manner described above. Should this not be the case and should hostilities resume, the funds will be used in order to address the changed humanitarian needs as far as the security situation allows.

To ensure a well coordinated and efficient humanitarian intervention the implementation of projects funded by DG ECHO in the framework of the present decision requires coordination with local authorities, including in Hezbollah controlled areas.

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed: ¹¹

2.1. - Objectives:

Principal objective: To save and preserve the lives of the populations affected by the crisis in Lebanon.

Specific objectives:

- (1) To assist the victims of the crisis in Lebanon with integrated relief including in particular the provision of water and sanitation services, food and non-food items, health supplies and services, shelter, activities related to unexploded ordnances (demarcation, awareness, clearance) and coordination.
- (2) To assist the victims of the crisis in Lebanon who sought refuge in neighbouring countries with integrated relief assistance.
- (3) To maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field to assess needs, appraise project proposals and to coordinate and monitor the implementation of operations.

2.2. - Components:

In order to maximise the impact of the humanitarian aid for the victims, the European Commission will establish a DG ECHO support office located in the EC Delegation in Beirut. This office will appraise project proposals, co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of humanitarian operations financed by the European Commission. The office will provide technical assistance capacity and the necessary logistics for the achievement of these tasks.

Projects funded under the present decision include the following activities:

Water and sanitation: Interventions will aim at repairing the damaged water systems and wastewater networks and in the meantime provide potable water to the populations in need.

Shelter: Operations will provide transitional shelter assistance to the returnee population; shelter rehabilitation where necessary; upgrading or installation of sanitation facilities; and provision of electricity. They will also consider assisting in the rehabilitation of social infrastructure such as schools and hospitals.

Food and non-food Items: Operations will provide food-insecure groups with focused food assistance. Urgent non-food items (such as hygiene and cooking kits, mattresses and sheets, etc.) may have to be distributed to the most vulnerable families.

Livelihood recovery and cash-for-work activities: Vulnerable populations without income opportunities will be given job opportunities for a limited period of time, preventing them from falling into deeper poverty.

Health and psycho-social support: Interventions will focus on the provision and management of adequate medical supplies and equipment with special attention to the most vulnerable,

¹¹Grants 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.

Humanitarian aid operations funded by the Commission are implemented by NGOs and the Red Cross organisations on the basis of Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) (in conformity with Article 163 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation) and by United Nations agencies based on the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA). The standards and criteria established in DG ECHO's standard Framework Partnership Agreement to which NGO's and International organisations have to adhere and the procedures and criteria needed to become a partner may be found at http://ec.europa.eu./comm/echo/partners/index_en.htm

i.e. war-wounded, disabled persons and the chronically ill. A number of activities will be dedicated to health coordination. Psycho-social support will be provided where necessary.

Unexploded ordnance demarcation, awareness and clearance:

Demarcation of unexploded ordnance and awareness raising will be supported in order to ensure that the returnee population can safely resume activities in the affected areas. If necessary and according to assessments, clearance activities will be supported.

Co-ordination: Support will be provided to mandated agencies for the implementation of their humanitarian coordination mandate in Lebanon, including close coordination with Lebanese authorities

3 - Duration expected for actions in the proposed Decision:

Given the overall volatile situation in the affected areas and the fact that hostilities may resume at any moment, it is crucial that the implementation period covered by this decision is adequate to ensure the completion of all operations taking into account possible delays or halt of the activities. Therefore, the duration for the implementation of this decision will be 18 months. Humanitarian operations funded by this decision must be implemented within this period.

Expenditure under this decision shall be eligible from 15 August 2006.

Although the foreseen duration of most of the operations is 6 months, the schedule of the implementation is established at 18 months because of the seriousness and volatility of the current crisis.

Start Date: 15 August 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.

5 - Other donors and donor co-ordination mechanisms.

Donors in JORDAN/LEBANON/SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC the last 12 months

1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria	500,000	DG ECHO	27,477,000		
Belgium	2,000,000	DG RELEX	11.000.000		
Cyprus	125,973				
Czech republic	1,053,702				
Denmark	3,163,539				
Estonia	31,955				
Finland	1,500,000				
France	8,091,072				
Germany	5,077,368				
Greece	2,004,739				
Hungary	121,767				
Ireland	1,300,000				
Italy	32,250,316				
Latvia	56,915				
Lithuania	86,886				
Luxemburg	750,000				
Malta	53,750				
Netherlands	4,814,440				
Poland	250,000				
Portugal	200,000				
Slovakia	107,000				
Slovenia	20,000				
Spain	4,216,000				
Sweden	6,135,089				
United kingdom	8,023,364				
Subtotal	81,933,875	Subtotal	27,477,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	109,410,875		

Dated : 06/09/2006

(*) 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.

Whilst the EC continues proper coordination amongst the services concerned by the crisis in Lebanon and amongst Member States in Brussels and in Lebanon itself, the UN will assure through its cluster-approach the coordination between the humanitarian actors on the ground. However, in the coming month the main focus of coordination of international aid for Lebanon is likely to move away from humanitarian coordination as such to the coordination of governments and donors efforts to guaranty a smooth phasing from humanitarian to reconstruction aid. DG ECHO will liaise closely with all actors involved to ensure such a smooth phasing.

6 - Amount of Decision and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1. - Total amount of the decision: EUR 30,000,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: <i>To save and preserve the lives of the populations affected by the crisis in Lebanon</i>				
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Activities	Potential partners¹²
<p>Specific objective 1: To assist the victims of the crisis in Lebanon with integrated relief including in particular the provision of water and sanitation services, food and non-food items, health supplies and services, transitional shelter material, activities related to unexploded ordnances (demarcation, awareness, clearance) and coordination.</p>	23,550,000	Main areas of intervention will be the south of Beirut, the southern part of the country and the Bekaa valley, but should not exclude other areas of the country.	Repair of water distribution and collection systems, sanitation, health and psycho-social support, coordination, livelihood support and income generation activities, coordination and some shelter assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ACH- ESP - ACP - ACTED - CARE - FR - CISP - CROIX-ROUGE - CICR- ICRC - CH - DANChurch AID - DNK - DRC - EMDH - HANDICAP (FR) - ICU - IMC UK - ISLAMIC RELIEF - MAG - UK - MDM - FRA - MERCY CORPS SCOTLAND - MERLIN - MPDL - NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL - OXFAM – UK - PSF - FRA - PREMIERE URGENCE - SOLIDARITES - TERRE DES HOMMES (TDH) – ITA - TSF – FR - THW - DE - UNFPA - UN - UNDP - BEL - UN - UNHCR - BEL - UN - UNICEF - BEL - UN - UNOCHA - UN - UNRWA - WHO – OMS - WFP - WORLD VISION DEU

¹² ACCION CONTRA EL HAMBRE, (ESP), AGA KHAN FOUNDATION (United Kingdom), AGENCE D'AIDE A LA COOPERATION TECHNIQUE ET AU DEVELOPPEMENT, (FR), ASAMBLEA DE COOPERACION POR LA PAZ, (E), CARE FRANCE, (FR), COMITATO INTERNAZIONALE PER LO SVILUPPO DEI POPOLI (ITA), COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR), DANSK FLYGTNINGEHAELP, ENFANTS DU MONDE - DROITS DE L'HOMME, FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT ROUGE, FOLKEKIRKENS NODHJAELP, (DNK), FONDAZIONE TERRE DES HOMMES ITALIA ONLUS, HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL (FR), HET NEDERLANDSE RODE KRUIS (NLD), ISLAMIC RELIEF, ISTITUTO PER LA COOPERAZIONE UNIVERSITARIA - ONLUS (ITA), International Medical Corps UK, MEDECINS DU MONDE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY RELIEF INTERNATIONAL (GBR), MERCY CORPS SCOTLAND (GBR), MINES ADVISORY GROUP (GBR), MOVIMIENTO POR LA PAZ, EL DESARME Y LA LIBERTAD, (E), NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL (NOR), OXFAM (GB), PHARMACIENS SANS FRONTIERES (FR), PREMIERE URGENCE, (FR), SOLIDARITES, (FR), TELECOMS SANS FRONTIERES (FR), THW, (DE), UNICEF, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES - BELGIUM, UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN NEAR EAST, UNITED NATIONS, OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND, WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION - ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE, WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME, WORLD VISION, (DEU)

Specific objective 2: To assist the victims of the crisis in Lebanon who sought refuge in neighbouring countries with integrated relief assistance	3,000,000	Neighbouring countries (Syria, Jordan) where refugees from Lebanon would need support	Shelter assistance, water and sanitation, non-food items and focused food assistance, hygiene, income generation activities	- AGA KHAN - CARITAS AU - CROIX-ROUGE - CICR- ICRC - CH - CROIX-ROUGE - FICR-IFCR-CH - CROIX-ROUGE - NLD - DRC - UN - UNHCR - BEL - UN - UNICEF - BEL
Specific objective 3: To maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field to assess needs, appraise project proposals and to coordinate and monitor the implementation of operations	450,000	Beirut		
Contingency reserve, max. 10% of the total amount	3,000,000			
TOTAL:	30,000,000			

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://europa.eu/comm/echo/evaluation/index_en.htm.

8 - Budget Impact article 23 02 01

-	CE (EUR)
Initial Available Appropriations for 2006	470,429,000
Reinforcement from emergency reserve	90,000,000
Transfers	-
Total Available Credits	560,429,000
Total executed to date (by 22/08/2006)	510,017,000
Available remaining	50,412,000
Total amount of the Decision	30,000,000

A reinforcement of EUR 30,000,000 has been requested from the Emergency Aid Reserve to cover the funding of this Decision.

COMMISSION DECISION
on the financing of humanitarian operations from the general budget of the European
Union in the
MIDDLE EAST

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 aid¹³, and in particular Articles 15 (1), 15 (2) thereof:

Whereas:

- (1) As of 12 July 2006, border skirmishes at the Israeli-Lebanese border turned into a large scale conflict between warring factions with a significant human toll and massive displacement. In Lebanon, bombing of Beirut and the South of Lebanon forced over 900,000 people to flee their homes, and led to serious disruption of essential services posing a serious challenge to the Lebanese authorities to ensure appropriate shelter, food, safe drinking water and health care for the affected population;
- (2) The unanimous adoption by the Security Council of the United Nations, on 12 August, of Resolution 1701 has led to a cessation of hostilities and to the return of large parts of the population to their areas of origin;
- (3) The Government of Lebanon has requested humanitarian assistance from the International Community;
- (3) An assessment of the humanitarian situation leads to the conclusion that humanitarian aid operations should be financed by the Community for a period of 18 months;
- (4) In order to maximise the impact of humanitarian aid for the victims, it is necessary to maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field;
- (5) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 30,000,000 from budget line 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to the returnee population and other vulnerable groups affected by the conflict in Lebanon, taking into account the available budget, other donors contributions and other factors;
- (7) In accordance with Article 17 (2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No.1257/96, the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave a favourable opinion on 25 September 2006.

¹³ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6
[ECHO/-ME/BUD/2006/03000](#)

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 30,000,000 for humanitarian aid operations to populations affected by the conflict in Lebanon by using line 23 02 01 of the 2006 general budget of the European Union.
2. In accordance with Article 2 and Article 4 of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objectives:
 - To assist the victims of the crisis in Lebanon with integrated relief including in particular the provision of water and sanitation services, food and non-food items, health supplies and services, shelter, activities related to unexploded ordnance (demarcation, awareness, clearance) and coordination;
 - To assist the victims of the crisis in Lebanon who sought refuge in neighbouring countries with integrated relief assistance;
 - To maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field to assess needs, appraise project proposals and to coordinate and monitor the implementation of humanitarian operations.

The amounts allocated to each of these specific objectives are listed in the annex to this Decision.

Article 2

Without prejudice to the use of the contingency reserve, the Commission may, where this is justified by the humanitarian situation, re-allocate the funding levels established for one of the specific objectives set out in Article 1(2) to another objective mentioned therein, provided that the re-allocated amount represents less than 20% of the global amount covered by this Decision and does not exceed EUR 2,000,000.

Article 3

1. The duration for the implementation of this Decision shall be for a maximum period of 18 months, starting on 15 August 2006.
2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 15 August 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 implementation of this Decision.

Article 4

1. The amount of EUR 30,000,000 shall be conditional upon the necessary funds being mobilised from the Emergency Aid Reserve to the Humanitarian Aid budget line (23 02 01).
2. This Decision shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission

Annex: Breakdown of allocations by specific objectives

Principal objective: To save and preserve the life of the populations affected by the crisis in Lebanon	
Specific objectives	Amount per specific objective (EUR)
To assist the victims of the crisis in Lebanon with integrated relief including in particular the provision of water and sanitation services, food and non-food items, health supplies and services, shelter , activities related to unexploded ordnance (demarcation, awareness, clearance) and coordination;	23,550,000
To assist the victims of the crisis in Lebanon that sought refuge in neighbouring countries with integrated relief assistance	3,000,000
To maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field to assess needs, appraise project proposals and to coordinate and monitor the implementation of operations	450,000
Contingency reserve	3,000,000
TOTAL	30,000,000