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COMMISSION DECISION

on the financing of a Grant Facility for improving the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian aid responses delivered by non-governmental humanitarian organisations

(ECHO/-GF/BUD/2009/01000)

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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 Articles 2, 4 and 15(2) thereof;

Whereas:

- (1) Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 provides that humanitarian aid financed by the European Union may be used to finance small-scale training schemes and general studies in the field of humanitarian operations, as well as measures to strengthen the Union's coordination with, inter alia, non-governmental organisations and organisations representing them;
- (2) The 2008-2012 Framework Partnership Agreement between DG ECHO² and humanitarian organisations stipulates in its Article 1.2.(b) that the Commission will support capacity building initiatives and other activities that aim to improve the quality of the humanitarian response of its partners;
- (3) The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid³ states that "for the EU, supporting the development of the collective global capacity to respond to humanitarian crises is one of the fundamental tenants of our approach";
- (4) The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid – Action plan⁴, in order to facilitate its implementation, called for actions in following areas:
 - reinforcing capacities to respond (area 3);
 - promoting humanitarian principles and law, and implementing quality aid approaches (areas 1 and 2);
 - strengthening partnership, coherence and coordination (areas 4 and 5);
- (5) The Commission established a humanitarian Grant Facility in 1999 with the aim of improving the quality of humanitarian aid responses and to increase their effectiveness by strengthening the preparedness and response capacities of non-governmental humanitarian organisations (NGOs), their staff and local actors. The instrument received an annual budget which has been increased considerably since 2006;

¹ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

² Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid – ECHO.

³ OJ C 25, 30.01.2008, p.1.

⁴ Commission Staff Working Paper "European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid – Action Plan", SEC(2008)1991 of 29.05.2008.

- (6) An external evaluation of the "Thematic Funding and Grant Facility Approach" (May 2008 – Particip GmbH) underlined the relevance and added value of the capacity building instrument;
- (7) DG ECHO adopted a capacity building strategy entitled "Strengthening Humanitarian Responses through Global Capacity Building and Grant Facility – DG ECHO Guidelines" which defines its objectives, policy directions and issues of implementation. The strategy recommends supporting capacity building actions in priority sectors, which include among others "improved cluster roll out; strengthened logistical response; consistent and common needs assessments; disaster risk reduction; local capacity building, strengthened humanitarian organisations, human resources and systems, enhanced quality of humanitarian aid responses, accountability of humanitarian aid organisations and promotion of the respect of International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian principles." One of the priorities is also to "encourage cooperation, coordination and networking among non-governmental humanitarian organisations";
- (8) The Grant Facility should also strengthen civil society in the Member States which are nowadays underrepresented in the framework of DG ECHO's Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA), namely Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia;

The FPA defines two types of control mechanisms for Actions. The P-control mechanism serves to favourably assess the technical capacity, the financial solidity and the procurement rules prior to the signature of the FPA. The A-control mechanism foresees that the financial base and procurement procedures need further attention;

It is therefore appropriate to provide specific capacity support to NGOs partners from underrepresented Member States and to those using the A control mechanism;

- (9) Actions supported by this Decision will be implemented through direct centralised management by humanitarian aid organisations that are signatories to the Framework Partnership Agreement, by non-profit organisations which fulfil the eligibility criteria established in Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96; and by European research institutes, universities, academic institutions and networks of non-profit humanitarian organisation; through joint management by international organisations that are signatories to the Framework Partnership Agreement.
- (10) An assessment of the needs and the capacity building context leads to the conclusion that the Actions should be financed by the European Union for a period of 18 months;
- (11) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 4,000,000 from budget article 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to realise the objectives of the Decision, taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions and other factors. Actions covered by this Decision should be financed for a maximum of 85% of the total cost of the Action;
- (12) Due to the nature of the Actions to be funded under this Decision, it is necessary to establish a contingency reserve in order to meet unforeseen events.

- (13) The present Decision constitutes a financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002⁵, Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002⁶, and Article 15 of the internal rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Union⁷;
- (14) In accordance with Article 17(3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996, the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave a favourable opinion on 27/10/2009.

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 4,000,000 for the 2009 "Grant Facility for improving the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian aid responses delivered by non-governmental humanitarian organisations" from budget article 23.02.01 of the 2009 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 improve the quality of humanitarian aid responses and to increase their effectiveness by strengthening the preparedness and response capacities as well as the technical skills of non-profit making organisations, non-governmental humanitarian organisations, their staff and the related local actors. The humanitarian Actions shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objectives:
 - Strengthen the skills and humanitarian aid expertise through local capacity building initiatives and through specialised sector training for humanitarian aid workers.

A total of EUR 1,700,000 is allocated to this specific objective.
 - Support programmes which aim to enhance the quality of management in delivering humanitarian aid, which increase accountability to those in need and to the European citizens on the proper use of public funds and which promote the respect of humanitarian principles and law.

A total of EUR 1,000,000 is allocated to this specific objective.
 - Support programmes which strengthen the capacity of partners using the A control mechanism and of the civil society in European Union-countries which are underrepresented in the framework of the current Framework Partnership Agreement.

A total of EUR 500,000 is allocated to this specific objective.
 - Reinforce networking between DG ECHO's NGO partners with the aim of improving the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian aid action, to contribute to one or several of the priorities identified in the European Consensus on

⁵ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1.

⁶ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1.

⁷ Commission Decision of 6.4.2009, C/2009/2105

Humanitarian Aid or the Hyogo Framework for Action or strengthening the humanitarian aid cooperation and coordination mechanisms.

A total of EUR 400,000 is allocated to this specific objective.

A total of EUR 400,000 is allocated to the contingency reserve.

3. The Authorising Officer may decide on non-substantial changes in accordance with Article 90.4 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation. Accordingly, without prejudice to the use of the contingency reserve, when required by the changing circumstances, resources may be reallocated between the different specific objectives up to a maximum of 20% of the total amount of the Financing Decision or up to a total of EUR 3,000,000, whichever is reached first.

Article 2

1. The period for the implementation of the Actions financed under this Decision shall start on the date of its adoption 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.

Article 3

1. As a general rule, Actions funded by this Decision should be co-financed.
Taking account of the nature of activities to be undertaken, the maximum rate of co-financing shall be 85 %.
2. Actions supported by this Decision will be implemented
 - by direct centralised management with humanitarian aid organisations that are signatories to the Framework Partnership Agreement; by non-profit organisations which fulfil the eligibility and suitability criteria established in Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96; and European research institutes, universities, academic institutions and networks of non-profit humanitarian organisations
 - by joint management with international organisations that are signatories to the Framework Partnership Agreement.

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

Title: Commission Decision on the financing of a Grant Facility for improving the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian aid responses delivered by non-governmental humanitarian organisations

Location of Action: European Union and third countries in receipt of Community humanitarian aid

Amount of Decision: EUR 4,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/-GF/BUD/2009/01000

Supporting document

1. RATIONALE, NEEDS AND TARGET POPULATION.

1.1. Rationale and identified needs

Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 lays down that humanitarian aid financed by the European Union may be used to finance small-scale training schemes and general studies in the field of humanitarian operations, as well as measures to strengthen the Union's coordination with, inter alia, non-governmental organisations and organisations representing them.

In addition, article 1.2.(b) of the 2008-2012 Framework Partnership Agreement (hereinafter "FPA") mentions that the Commission will support capacity building initiatives and other activities that aim to improve the quality of the humanitarian response of its partners.

Furthermore, the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid¹, adopted by the Council, European Parliament and the Commission on 18 December 2007 and its successive action

¹ OJ C 25 of 30.01.2008,p1

plan² stated that it is one of the fundamental tenants to support the development of the global capacity to respond to humanitarian crises. It calls for actions which reinforce capacities to respond, which promote humanitarian principles and law and implement quality aid approaches and which strengthen partnership, coherence and coordination.

DG ECHO established the Grant Facility in 1999 with the aim of improving the quality of humanitarian aid by financing the capacity building of NGO partner organisations, of local implementing partners and of non-profit making organisations. The instrument received an annual budget which has been doubled almost every year since 2006. The Grant Facility attracted a high level of interest in 2008, when 54 project proposals were received for a total funding request of EUR 8,000,000. Grant agreements for a total amount of EUR 1,800,000 were awarded in respect of 17 proposals, due to the budgetary limitations.

A recent evaluation of the "Thematic Funding and the Grant Facility Approach"³ (May 2008 – GmbH Particip), and a global needs assessment exercise, organised in 2008 and 2009 among DG ECHO partners resulted in a new longer term strategy for the capacity building activities: "Strengthening Humanitarian Responses through Global Capacity Building and Grant Facility – DG ECHO Guidelines". This new Capacity Building framework defines its objectives, the longer term policy directions and some issues of implementation. It recommends focus areas for the next five years based on internationally defined and agreed global needs and is coherent with the European Commission's priorities, including among others: "improved cluster roll out; strengthened logistical response; consistent and common needs assessments; disaster risk reduction; local capacity building, strengthened humanitarian organisations, human resources and systems, enhanced quality of humanitarian aid responses, accountability of humanitarian aid organisations and promotion of the respect of International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian principles."

"Encourage cooperation, coordination and networking among non-governmental humanitarian organisations" is also one of the priorities in DG ECHO Guidelines. To further encourage the cooperation between DG ECHO's partners, a proposal under this Decision introduced by several FPA partners will be looked upon favourably.

Considering the above, DG ECHO is proposing for the 2009 Grant Facility to prioritize the financing of programmes which strengthen the response capacities of DG ECHO's NGO partners, their local implementing partners and civil society in European countries which are currently underrepresented in the framework of the current FPA, through specialised sector training and or local capacity building initiatives in a number of focused sectors (protection and security, food, water, sanitation and hygiene, health and shelter, logistics, transport and telecommunication, cash and vouchers, needs assessment and disaster risk reduction). Initiatives which promote quality, accountability, humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law also constitute a priority. Projects aiming to strengthen the capacity of partners using the A control mechanism and of civil society in European Union countries which are underrepresented in the framework of the current FPA will be a particular focus as will be those which encourage cooperation, coordination and networking among DG ECHO's NGO partners.

² SEC(2008)1991 of 29.5.2008

³ Evaluation of Thematic Funding and the Grant Facility Approach, Final Report 20.05.2008, Particip GmbH

1.2. Target population and regions concerned

The direct beneficiaries of this Grant Facility will be humanitarian aid organisations and international organisations which are signatories to the FPA, as well as other non-profit making organisations active in the humanitarian aid sector and fulfilling the eligibility criteria defined in Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96.

As foreseen in the budgetary comments of budget article 23 02 01, funding requests submitted by European networks of non-profit humanitarian organisations⁴ and research institutes, universities and academic institutions⁵ may also be selected in order to contribute to the enhancement of the quality of humanitarian aid and to strengthen civil society in the Member States that are nowadays underrepresented in DG ECHO's humanitarian aid partnership. In this context, Article 109.2⁶ of the Financial Regulation has also to be respected.

Actions funded by this Decision will result in the improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the humanitarian aid actions implemented by DG ECHO partner organisations and their local partners. Beneficiaries of humanitarian aid actions are, therefore, indirect beneficiaries of this funding Decision

The regions concerned are the European Union and third countries in receipt of humanitarian aid financed by the European Union.

1.3. Risk assessment and possible constraints

The implementation of the objectives of the Grant Facility requires a high degree of technical specialisation, a good knowledge of DG ECHO procedures, and appropriately qualified staff available during the whole project lifetime. In order to maximise the possibility of success in achieving the project objectives, prospective partners are requested to have proven technical experience in the chosen area of intervention. The above requirements are likely to have an impact not only on the selection of projects but also on the timeframe of project implementation. Extensions of the initial duration of projects or suspensions might become necessary due to technical constraints or in case of sudden onset crises.

⁴ "Action grants and running cost grants in favour of humanitarian networks"

⁵ "Studies and training linked to the achievement of the objectives of the policy area"

⁶ "Grants may not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit for the beneficiary"

2. OBJECTIVES AND COMPONENTS OF THE HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION PROPOSED

2.1. Principle objective

Improve the quality of humanitarian aid responses and increase their effectiveness by strengthening the preparedness and response capacities as well as the technical skills of non-profit making organisations, non-governmental humanitarian organisations, their staff and the related local actors.

2.2. Specific objectives

Specific objective 1: Strengthen the skills and humanitarian aid expertise through local capacity building initiatives and through specialised sector training for humanitarian aid workers

- *Eligible actions:* actions for which an application may be made:
 - Organisation and / or development of specialised training programmes and / or development of local capacity building initiatives, in one or several of the following priority sectors:
 - Protection and security;
 - Food Security, Nutrition and Food Aid;
 - Health Services;
 - Water supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion;
 - Shelter, resettlement and Non-Food items;
 - Logistics, Transport, Telecommunication;
 - Cash and vouchers;
 - Needs assessment;
 - Disaster Risk Reduction
 - Grants awarded under specific objective 1 shall, in principle, be between EUR 100,000 and EUR 500,000.
- *Eligible beneficiaries:* to be eligible the projects should directly benefit :
 - The NGOs signatory to the FPA and their staff, and / or
 - Local implementing actors in the field (local partners of NGOs signatory to the FPA); and / or
 - Civil society in EU-countries which are underrepresented in the framework of the current FPA (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia).
 - At least 50% of participants at training sessions and local capacity building initiatives should be staff or representatives of the organisations described above but not belonging to the own organisation. Participation from outside the family related organisation will be considered as an advantage.
- *Eligible organisations:* who may apply?
 - All NGOs signatory to the Framework Partnership Agreement with DG ECHO;
 - Research institutes, universities, academic institutions and non-profit organisations active in the area of humanitarian aid which fulfil the eligibility and suitability criteria for funding established in Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96. The headquarters may also be in a State where the "European Convention on the Recognition of the Legal Personality of International Non-Governmental Organisations CETS No 124⁷" has entered into force on the date of adoption of this Decision.

⁷ Countries where Convention No 124 has entered into force : Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Greece, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom

Specific objective 2: Enhance the quality of management in delivering humanitarian aid, increase accountability to those in need and to the European citizens on the proper use of public funds and promote the respect of humanitarian principles and law

- *Eligible actions:* actions for which an application may be made:
 - Actions / projects aiming to enhance the quality of management in delivering humanitarian aid; and / or
 - Actions / projects contributing to an increased accountability to the beneficiaries of humanitarian aid and to European citizens on the proper use of public funds; and / or
 - Actions / projects promoting the respect of humanitarian principles and law.
 - Grants awarded under specific objective 2 shall, in principle, be between EUR 100,000 and EUR 300,000.
- *Eligible beneficiaries:* global humanitarian community - the results of the projects, funded by DG ECHO, will be made accessible to all NGOs signatory to the Framework Partnership Agreement with DG ECHO.
- *Eligible organisations:* who may apply?
 - All NGOs and international organisations signatory to the Framework Partnership Agreement with DG ECHO;
 - Research institutes, universities, academic institutions and non-profit organisations active in the area of humanitarian aid which fulfil the eligibility and suitability criteria for funding established in Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96. The headquarters may also be in a State where the "European Convention on the Recognition of the Legal Personality of International Non-Governmental Organisations CETS No 124" has entered into force on the date of adoption of this Decision.

Specific objective 3: Strengthen the capacity of partners using the A control mechanism and of the civil society in European Union countries which are underrepresented in the framework of the current Framework Partnership Agreement

- *Eligible actions:* actions for which an application may be made:
 - Capacity building programmes which strengthen the capacity of the submitting organisation and the skills of its staff, for partners using the A control mechanism; and / or
 - Capacity building programmes benefitting civil society in European Union countries underrepresented in the framework of the current FPA;
 - Grants awarded under specific objective 3 shall, in principle, be between EUR 50,000 and EUR 200,000.
- *Eligible beneficiaries:* to be eligible the projects should directly benefit:
 - NGOs signatory to the FPA and using the A control mechanism, and / or
 - Civil society in EU-countries which are underrepresented under the current FPA (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia).
- *Eligible organisations:* who may apply?
 - NGOs signatory to the FPA with DG ECHO and using the A control mechanism, for actions targeting capacity building;
 - All NGOs signatory to the Framework Partnership Agreement with DG ECHO, for actions aiming to strengthen the capacity of civil society in underrepresented EU countries.

Specific objective 4: Reinforce networking between DG ECHO's NGO partners

- *Eligible organisations: who may apply?*

European networks of non-profit humanitarian organisations:

- which are a non-profit legal person; and
- which have their main headquarters in a Member State of the European Union; and
- with a minimum of 4 FPA-partners as active member of the network; and
- with minimum 1 FPA-partner as a member of the steering board or committee of the network.

- *Aim of the organisation: eligible networks will aim to:*

- improve the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian aid actions; and / or
- contribute to one or several of the priorities identified in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid or the Hyogo Framework for action 2005-2015 related to disaster risk reduction; and / or
- enhance the cooperation and coordination between European NGOs.

Grants awarded under specific objective 4 shall, in principle, be between EUR 100,000 and EUR 200,000.

- *Eligible beneficiaries: global humanitarian community – the results of the network activities, funded by DG ECHO, will be made accessible to all NGOs signatory to the Framework Partnership Agreement with DG ECHO.*

This specific objective will be implemented through operating grant agreements.

3. DURATION EXPECTED FOR ACTIONS IN THE PROPOSED DECISION

The duration for the implementation of this Decision shall be 18 months. Actions funded by this Decision must be implemented within this period. The 18 month duration for this Decision is necessary, since, as a general rule, the nature of the activities proposed requires sustained commitment for an average period of 12 months. In addition, sufficient time has to be foreseen to complete the evaluation and selection procedure of proposals. The 18 month timeframe takes also into account possible delays in implementation linked to the constraints mentioned under section 1.3.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from the date of its adoption.

Start Date: date of adoption.

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 THIS CONTEXT

List of previous DG ECHO interventions within this context

		2006	2007	2008
Decision Number	Decision Type	EUR	EUR	EUR
ECHO/-GF/BUD/2006/01000	Non Emergency	650,000		
ECHO/-GF/BUD/2007/01000	Non Emergency		1,000,000	
ECHO/-GF/BUD/2008/01000	Non Emergency			1,800,000
Total		650,000	1,000,000	1,800,000

Dated : 10 September 2009 Source HOPE

5. OVERVIEW OF DONORS' CONTRIBUTIONS: NOT APPLICABLE

6. AMOUNT OF DECISION AND DISTRIBUTION BY SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

6.1. Total amount of the Decision: EUR 4.000.000.

Taking into account the specificities of humanitarian aid and the nature of the activities to be undertaken, the maximum rate of co-financing will be 85%. In this context, DG ECHO will pay special attention to avoid double-funding of activities with other programmes and projects financed by the different European Commission services.

6.2. Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: Improve the quality of humanitarian aid responses and increase their effectiveness by strengthening the preparedness and response capacities as well as the technical skills of non-profit making organisations, non-governmental humanitarian organisations, their staff and the related local actors			
Specific objectives	Amount specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Potential partners
Specific objective 1: Strengthen the skills and humanitarian aid expertise through local capacity building initiatives and through specialised sector training for humanitarian aid workers	1,700,000	European Union and third countries in receipt of Community humanitarian aid.	<u>Direct centralised management</u> All NGOs signatory to the Framework Partnership Agreement with DG ECHO; Research institutes, universities, academic institutions and non-profit organisations active in the area of humanitarian aid fulfilling eligibility criteria Article 7 Council Regulation 1257/96. The headquarters may also be in a State where the "European Convention on the Recognition of the Legal Personality of International Non-Governmental Organisations CETS No 124" has entered into force on the date of adoption of this Decision.
Specific objective 2: Enhance the quality of management in delivering humanitarian aid, increase accountability to those in need and to the European citizens on the proper use of public funds and promote the respect of humanitarian principles and law	1,000,000	European Union and third countries in receipt of Community humanitarian aid.	<u>Direct centralised management</u> All NGOs signatory to the Framework Partnership Agreement with DG ECHO; Research institutes, universities, academic institutions and non-profit organisations active in the area of humanitarian aid fulfilling eligibility criteria Article 7 Council Regulation 1257/96. The headquarters may also be in a State where the "European Convention on the Recognition of the Legal Personality of International Non-Governmental Organisations CETS No 124" has entered into force on the date of adoption of this Decision. <u>Joint management</u> International organisations signatory to the Framework Partnership Agreement with DG ECHO.
Specific objective 3: Strengthen the capacity of partners using the A control mechanism and of civil society in European Union countries which are underrepresented in the framework of the current Framework Partnership Agreement	500,000	European Union and third countries in receipt of Community humanitarian aid.	<u>Direct centralised management</u> All NGOs signatory to the FPA with DG ECHO and using the A control mechanism, for capacity building of the submitting organisation; All NGOs signatory to the FPA with DG ECHO, for strengthening the capacity of civil society in underrepresented EU countries.
Specific objective 4: Reinforce networking between DG ECHO's NGO partners	400,000	European Union and third countries in receipt of Community humanitarian aid.	<u>Direct centralised management</u> European networks of non-profit humanitarian organisations.
Contingency reserve	400,000		
TOTAL:	4.000.000		

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 actions financed by the Community in order to establish whether they have achieved their objectives and to produce guidelines for improving the effectiveness of subsequent actions." 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.

An evaluation of the Thematic Funding and the Grant Facility approach has been undertaken by GmbH Particip. The results are published in a final report (dated 20th May 2008) available at following address: http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/evaluation/thematic_en.htm#thematic

8. Management issues

Actions funded by the Commission under this Decision will be implemented by direct centralised management or by joint management.

After the adoption of this Decision, guidelines for the exclusion, selection and award of agreements will be published on the Commission's website providing maximum publicity among potential organisations and an information meeting will be organised with all interested organisations.

Grants will be awarded after recommendation of a specialised evaluation committee, on the basis of the criteria enumerated in Article 7.2 of the Humanitarian Aid Regulation, such as the technical and financial capacity, readiness, experience and results of previous interventions. Additional criteria such as relevance and added value to the specific objectives of the Grant Facility, feasibility, cost-effectiveness and visibility will also be used to analyse and select proposals.

Applicants will be able to act individually or with partner organisations. A proposal introduced by several FPA-partners will be looked upon favourably. In this latter case, one partner will be proposed as lead partner, signing the grant agreement and the other partners will act as implementing partners.

Under specific objectives 1, 2 and 3, action grants will be awarded. Under specific objective 4 the European networks of non-profit humanitarian organisations will benefit from this Facility through operating grant agreements.