



Humanitarian Aid Decision

23 02 01

Title: Humanitarian aid for the victims of the Chechnya conflict

Location of operation: Caucasus (Russia, Azerbaijan)

Amount of Decision: EUR 22,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/-EE/BUD/2006/01000

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population.

1.1. - Rationale :

Political and security situation

The situation in Chechnya has been relatively “stable” for the last few months, with no major rebel attack but, as always, low-intensity fighting in some parts of the Republic and regular but limited rebel attacks against pro-Moscow law enforcement or administration officials. Parliamentary elections took place last November without disruption.

In the absence of a real political peace process, however, and with the level of insecurity and the continued presence of an estimated 80,000 military, one cannot speak of “normalisation” in the Republic. The situation remains unstable and volatile. Human rights organisations continue to report human rights violations on a regular basis, including arbitrary arrests and condemnations, abductions, torture and extra-judiciary executions of civilians. The number of disappearances, however, decreased in 2005, from to 396 in 2004 to 316 in 2005 according to Memorial¹ figures. However, Memorial works only on one third of the territory, and its monitors recently noted that due to the climate of fear in Chechnya, people refuse to talk and fear to report disappearances.

¹ Well-respected Russian Human Rights NGO
[ECHO/-EE/BUD/2006/01000](#)

The situation in the rest of the region continues to give rise to concerns, as the risk of the whole Northern Caucasus becoming further destabilised, is increasing. After Ingushetia and Dagestan, which have grown more and more unstable, Kabardino-Balkaria, long considered a haven in the region, is no longer immune either, as shown by the massive attack on law-enforcement structures which took place in Naltchik last October.

Humanitarian situation

1. Northern Caucasus

The victims of the conflict in Chechnya, notably those who are displaced within Chechnya or outside the Republic, are heavily traumatised by past and ongoing violence and lawlessness. The prevailing insecurity in Chechnya continues to affect families and hampers community development and the restoration of peace. People still suffer from insecurity and violence against civilians, unemployment and the lack of opportunities. The federal government's contribution towards the recovery of Chechnya increased in 2005 (for 2005, the federal budget was announced to be over 11 billion rubles, i.e. more than EUR 300 million). However, there is still no large reconstruction of infrastructures in Chechnya. Corruption is reported to be the major issue facing the reconstruction of the Republic., Moreover, considering the extent of the destruction, particularly in Grozny, conditions for the population continue to be extremely difficult. Although there is some economic progress, the nearly totally destroyed capital has seen little reconstruction taking place despite the fact that thousands of displaced people have returned from Ingushetia (the number of IDPs there went from 67,000 end of 2003 to 26,000 currently), increasing the population significantly. Apartment buildings are in ruins and shelter conditions remain totally inadequate, with the majority of people accommodated in makeshift apartments in bullet-ridden and half-bombed buildings with no running water, no sewage system and irregular electricity. As for most of those who came back from Ingushetia, voluntarily or not, they face a second displacement either to overcrowded temporary accommodation centres or to the private sector, as they are not able to go back to their destroyed houses. Only a small number of private houses have undergone basic rehabilitation thanks to international organizations and to the payment of federal compensations, but apartment buildings are not being reconstructed. As for daily life, people continue to depend on State allowances, odd jobs, humanitarian aid and indebtedness in a context where job opportunities are scarce outside the public sector : according to official sources, some 60 to 70% of the active population is unemployed.

The number of Chechen IDPs in Ingushetia which the international community continues to assist was relatively stable in 2005 and currently amounts to some 26,000. It seems that no further large movement of return is to be expected as long as people remaining in Ingushetia have no place to go to in Chechnya, or fear returning there. In addition to Ingushetia, there are 9,000 IDPs in Dagestan.

Several developments over the last two years call for a more diversified humanitarian response than before :

- 1) Most of the people who were displaced in Ingushetia returned to Chechnya, especially in 2004 when camps closed, and the majority of them found themselves displaced for a second time because their house was destroyed by the conflict. This means that funding is now to be concentrated mostly on Chechnya and that shelter needs have become a priority, in order for people to be able to come back to their homes and restart their livelihoods.

This does not mean, of course, that people displaced outside Chechnya should not continue to be assisted.

- 2) With the slight improvement in security and access, new areas have opened up to humanitarian organisations : as a consequence, DG ECHO's partners are now able to assist populations which had been unattended until now and still need basic help.
- 3) Six years into the conflict and due to increased socio-economic activity, notably trade, food aid is no longer the most appropriate instrument to support beneficiaries. Food is available on the markets. The problem is that households have no economic access to it. Therefore, the emphasis should be on gradually continuing to decrease food aid and replacing it with other types of assistance : food security, income-generation activities or vouchers. Food aid should eventually be kept only for the very most vulnerable until they can be taken over by other assistance mechanisms.

2. Azerbaijan

A number of Chechens have also sought refuge in neighbouring countries, notably Azerbaijan. There are, according to UNHCR, 5,441 registered Chechen refugees currently living in Baku. The Azerbaijani government does not want to grant them refugee status in order not to jeopardise its relationship with Russia, but tolerates them. UNHCR registers them and gives them a paper stating that they are under UNCHR protection. There used to be many more refugees, with 8 to 10,000 people in 2004, but a large number of them had to leave in 2005, due to several reasons. One of the main reasons seems to have been the very difficult material conditions they were living in, which deteriorated noticeably when UNHCR decreased their already very limited assistance due to funding problems. As a result, the vulnerable refugees saw the little cash assistance they got interrupted one month out of every three months. This system is still ongoing, which means that every three months, families are being expelled from the rooms they rent and have to find another kind of shelter, which is becoming more and more difficult in Baku where rent prices are rocketing along with oil prices. These difficulties pushed many families to leave Azerbaijan and sometimes to return to Chechnya because of the lack of alternative places and despite the risks they face. Only a few were accepted for resettlement in a third country.

Until the end of 2001, Azerbaijan used to be a safe haven for Chechen refugees, several of whom were resistance fighters or their relatives, and many of them loyal to the Maskhadov administration. The government welcomed them and there were many Islamic NGOs which helped them, as well as some help from the diaspora, so the situation was relatively comfortable. The situation changed dramatically with 9/11 and even further after the Nord-Ost theatre tragedy in Moscow. These NGOs were dismantled and the government adopted a quite hostile policy towards Chechen refugees, instructing doctors in hospitals not to treat the wounded any longer, limiting access to social services (barring in particular access to orthopedic care) and even at some point barring Chechen children from Azeri schools. There were many police crackdowns and arrests of men and some refugees even disappeared, unofficially handed over to Russia without going through a judiciary process. As a result, refugees in Azerbaijan feel very insecure and both UNHCR and ICRC explain that those who are still there remain because they have no other place to go.

Because of the intervention of UNHCR and ICRC, the situation improved slightly in some respects, although the government, under pressure from the Russian Federation, continues to

refuse to treat Chechen refugees in the same way as other refugees and to apply real asylum procedures, in violation of international humanitarian law. Children are now enrolled in schools and, since recently, people are being re-allowed access to orthopedic services, accompanied by ICRC. However, the material situation of most refugees is extremely precarious and the level of UNHCR assistance still largely inadequate. As UNHCR is dealing with an urban caseload which is not allowed to work, UNHCR opted for cash assistance, and the amount, which was reduced, is approximately of EUR 100 a month for a family of four, with an interruption of one month every three months.

1.2. - Identified needs :

Humanitarian needs are present in all sectors and remain complex for the population in Chechnya, but also for people displaced elsewhere in the region. Hundreds of thousands of people are still currently relying on humanitarian assistance (250,000 only for food aid). Needs are vast in Chechnya and far from being completely covered due to access problems, insecurity and the small number of humanitarian organisations. All of the people have not been assisted in the same way over the last years and therefore the humanitarian response should be as tailored as possible to the different levels of needs, taking into account the recent evolutions.

Identified needs are the following :

Improvement of living conditions

Basic food and non-food items (clothes for children, household and hygienic items) are still needed. Most families are largely deprived of these items and because of the lack of work opportunities and income, they cannot afford to buy them. However, although direct food aid continues to be a valuable contribution to the household economy, there is a need for further targeting. The reduction in the number of beneficiaries of direct food assistance needs to continue and to be carefully implemented, while in parallel other activities will be phased in or increased, such as school feeding (already in place), food for work, distribution of seeds, greenhouses and livestock or other **income-generation activities** which are sustainable and do not create dependency.

In the **shelter** sector in Chechnya, there are vast needs in terms of reconstruction, especially in Grozny, a city which used to host 400,000 inhabitants and where most apartment buildings have not been reconstructed so far. The current population is estimated to be around 90 to 100,000 people. The reconstruction of apartment buildings and destroyed houses is an issue for the government to tackle. People have actually started receiving federal compensations for destroyed houses, but many families are still waiting as distributions were stopped in order to check reported frauds in the system. In any case, people who received them reportedly had to pay a 30-to-50% bribe to get the money, which means that most often the amount received is not sufficient to reconstruct a house. As a result, either people were able to rebuild a roof and walls but had to continue to live in a temporary accommodation, or they used the money to buy cars or other items and reimburse debts. Apart from completely destroyed houses, there are urgent needs for basic rehabilitation in houses not totally destroyed which donors could respond to, as people are not eligible for compensations. The families concerned should receive shelter materials in order to secure one or two dry-rooms in the house. This would allow, notably, a certain number of families to leave the

overcrowded collective centres in Grozny. In 2006, DG ECHO would like its partners to develop integrated return programmes which would combine shelter rehabilitation, an income-generation grant and possibly some non-food items, a package which would help a household rebuild their livelihood.

Water and sanitation activities continue to be crucial in reducing the risk of water-borne and infectious diseases in Chechnya, which are widespread. The government is hardly present in this sector, especially in Grozny where there is no running water even in hospitals. Filtered, drinkable water has to be brought by trucks and is currently provided by the international community. Water and sanitation facilities have to be repaired or installed in hospitals and social structures. In Ingushetia, water and sanitation programmes are still operated by humanitarian organisations for IDPs in collective settlements. As there is now a government in place in Chechnya with a significant budget for reconstruction, DG ECHO intends to gradually phase down and then out of the water sector and to transfer it to local authorities.

Needs in the **health** sector persist in Chechnya, although their nature has changed. Health services continue to lack equipment and medicine but there is now more involvement from the government in this field, e.g. in the delivery of medicine, even if this is still insufficient. Therefore, the type of programmes should gradually evolve even if the total amount of assistance does not decrease significantly, considering the extent of needs. The volume of direct assistance (drugs and consumables) should be progressively brought down, especially in a few big structures, but other activities should be strengthened : delivery of specific equipment, emergency rehabilitations of secondary structures, training. The support to orthopedic activities, especially for children, needs to continue as well. In parallel, as physical access of the population to primary health structures is improving in some regions (Nozhay Yurt, Vedeno, Itum-Kale), there is a need for more support to the primary health sector in those rural areas (basic rehabilitation, equipment and training).

In general, because of the poor living conditions and consequences from the conflict, the health status of the population continues to be extremely low, with many stress-related illnesses, including among young children, widespread respiratory and gastro-intestinal infections as well as anaemia among women and children and a high rate of tuberculosis. Data collected in 2004 by WHO showed stagnating, if not deteriorating, indicators as compared to 2003. The infant mortality rate (28,9) was more than double that of the Russian Federation (13,3 on average). Perinatal mortality was reported to be 26,1/1000, as opposed to 12,08 in the rest of the Russian Federation.

Facilities in Chechnya are too basic to be able to respond to complex cases, hence the need to continue, in addition to supporting local structures, the support of a referral system in order to allow the most difficult cases to be treated outside the Republic, in the rest of the Russian Federation. It is also necessary to continue to support the main hospitals in Ingushetia and Daghestan in order to make sure that IDPs continue to have access to health care.

After several years of disruption of **education** and widespread destruction of facilities, there are vast needs in the educational sector, where the Chechen government is spending too little money. The priorities are the reconstruction of facilities (which should be the task of the government, but DG ECHO can contribute to partial rehabilitation when it is urgently needed) and the equipment of classrooms in Chechnya, as well as the provision of books in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Daghestan and the running of parallel schools or the strengthening of local schools for IDP children in Ingushetia and Daghestan. The lack of kindergartens is

also problematic and needs to be addressed, in particular in order to give children basic skills in Russian and allow them to successfully follow primary education.

Because of the war, many adolescents have been out of school for years, whether in Chechnya or in Ingushetia, and therefore are in urgent need of vocational training in order to be able to acquire some skills and work. Wherever possible, vocational training will be linked to the development of income-generation programmes.

The extent of war-related psychological disorders is such among the population in both Chechnya and Ingushetia that **psycho-social assistance** is crucial, especially among children and adolescents. A study led by WHO in 2005 found more than 70% of the population to be affected.

Because of the presence of mines, there is also a continued need for **mine-risk education**, especially in schools. Mines have been and continue to be highly used and the degree of contamination by explosive remnants of war is also high. According to UNICEF, at least 3,020 have been killed or wounded by mines and unexploded ordnance since 1995, of which 20% were children under 18². Considering the limited size of the population, the incident level is higher than that recorded in other mine-affected countries such as Afghanistan, Angola and Cambodia.

In a context where the civilian population is directly affected by the conflict and where severe human rights violations continue to take place, the **protection of civilians** must be maintained and prioritised in all three Republics, especially with regard to legal aid. The level of violence against civilians, e.g. abductions, torture and disappearances, remains the main challenge of the humanitarian intervention in this context. Protection activities through mandated organisations such as ICRC and UNHCR will continue and strive to enhance the capacity building of local organisations and initiatives. Respect for International Humanitarian Law, in particular the Geneva Conventions, should continue to be advocated. However, the difficulty of access by protection agencies to the conflict-affected population remains a major issue, notably with the ICRC still being denied access to prisons, leaving the population in Chechnya largely unprotected. **For the Northern Caucasus, both ICRC and UNHCR are being funded for 2005 under a 2004 decision.**

Outside Chechnya, people displaced by the conflict, whether in Russia or outside in the wider region, should continue to be protected as well. This concerns notably **Azerbaijan**, which still hosts some 5,500 refugees who face a real protection problem. These forgotten people live in sub-standard conditions and due to UNHCR funding problems (linked to headquarters funding reductions and lack of attention of international humanitarian donors to the problem of Chechen refugees in Azerbaijan), the little humanitarian assistance they receive is not enough to meet their very basic needs.

Security and coordination

Despite a noticeable improvement in security in parts of the Republic, Chechnya continues to be a dangerous and unpredictable humanitarian context : it is therefore important to reinforce the security set-up for the humanitarian community.

² These figures reflect only part of the total impact of mines and UXO because of lack of data on military casualties and lack of access to the mountainous Southern districts

Considering the continued reports of harassment of humanitarian NGOs³ and difficulties in access, there is a general need to represent the humanitarian community, in particular through the relevant UN agencies, with the federal and local authorities in order to defend the humanitarian space as well as to ensure a proper coordination of international humanitarian aid efforts.

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned :

The target population for the distribution of food and non-food items will be 245,000 people in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Daghestan (although the number will continue to decrease in the course of this decision) and 5,500 refugees in Azerbaijan.

Water and sanitation activities will target the population in medical and social structures in Chechnya and the population in Grozny, as well as the IDP population in temporary settlements in Ingushetia (although with a reduction as of July 2006).

Health programmes will target main hospitals in Chechnya as well as two central hospitals in Ingushetia and Daghestan, as well as polyclinics (notably for children) and primary health care posts in rural areas. Handicapped people will also continue to be supported.

Shelter programmes will be directed towards the most vulnerable people across Chechnya whose houses were partially destroyed and who are not eligible for compensation.

Several programmes target children and adolescents : food aid (specific food for IDP babies 4-24 months old in Ingushetia and Chechnya), primary education, psycho-social/vocational training (both in Northern Caucasus and in Azerbaijan) and mine awareness.

Income-generation activities will target vulnerable but able-bodied people across Chechnya and IDPs in Ingushetia, Daghestan and if possible refugees in Azerbaijan.

Protection activities under this decision will target 5,500 refugees in Azerbaijan.

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints :

Insecurity continues to be high not only in Chechnya (where it has been slightly less insecure for a year, at least in Grozny and in the plains), but in Northern Caucasus in general – increasingly so. All Republics of the region, in particular those covered by DG ECHO's programmes, are now confronted with rebel activity and a high risk of further destabilisation which might have humanitarian consequences, notably in Dagestan. It is very difficult to predict the evolution of the security situation in the region. The successful implementation of humanitarian programmes will be, as always, linked to security and access to Chechnya and to the region in general. Access has been significantly better in 2005 and some new regions have opened up to humanitarian workers, although the trend can be reversed at any time. A UN Headquarters Security Mission took place in December 2004 and announced that it would recommend downgrading a large part of Chechnya from Phase V to Phase IV, but unfortunately nothing has materialised yet and UN agencies and other humanitarian actors are still waiting for UNDSS to implement this much-awaited decision which would improve access to beneficiaries and targeting and monitoring of the aid. However, the risk of kidnapping remains high in the whole region.

³ PIN, IMC, CPCD, Hammer Forum
[ECHO-EE/BUD/2006/01000](#)

Access to Northern Caucasus in general could be constrained if insecurity continues, as expected, to spill over into all Republics of Northern Caucasus. Humanitarian organisations continue to work on a remote control system, most of them (notably the UN) based in Ingushetia or/and in North Ossetia. If these Republics were to destabilise further, this could hamper the operational capacity of DG ECHO's partners and their access to the beneficiaries.

In addition to insecurity, obstruction to the work of humanitarian agencies and staff by the federal and local authorities could hamper the delivery of humanitarian aid. Lately, several NGOs have either encountered problems in re-registering (People in Need notably, which has not had its accreditation renewed and has had to close down; most recently Hammer Forum which had to suspend their programmes) or have been visited by several law-enforcement agencies. There have also been visa problems. This happens at a time when pressure on NGOs, not only humanitarian, is mounting with the adoption, in January, of the restrictive NGO Bill. Although it is too early to know if this law will have a negative impact on the work of humanitarian organisations in the Northern Caucasus, concern is high among the international community. The attitude of authorities towards the humanitarian community remains complex and difficult to interpret : on the one hand, the Russian authorities are actively trying to convince the international community that there is no longer any need for humanitarian aid but rather for development aid; on the other hand, the government in Chechnya is requesting the international community to continue with humanitarian aid and seems to be willing to facilitate access to the Republic.

While looking at any possibility of phasing out or of adapting the humanitarian aid to the evolving needs deriving from the conflict, humanitarian aid will have to be continued as long as the situation of continued civil war will limit the possibility for recovery instruments to play their role in Northern Caucasus at large. With TACIS phasing in, in 2006, with a EUR 20 M experimental assistance programme focusing on education, health and economic recovery, the two Commission instruments will complement each other, answering the different types of needs in a coordinated way. Depending on the results obtained by the TACIS programme, a phasing down of Commission's humanitarian aid could be started, in particular in the field of health and education.

As far as the monitoring of operations is concerned, it will continue to be done through a remote control system from Moscow with as frequent travel as possible to Northern Caucasus depending on the security situation, and hopefully with more frequent visits to Chechnya itself if security allows. DG ECHO still hopes to be able to establish, in the near future, an office in Northern Caucasus.

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

2.1. - Objectives :

Principal objective: To improve the humanitarian situation of the victims of the conflict in Chechnya

³ 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.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://europa.eu.int/comm/ECHO/partners/index_en.htm
[ECHO/EE/BUD/2006/01000](#)

Specific objectives:

To improve the living conditions of people affected by the conflict by providing multi-sectoral assistance

To enhance the security of humanitarian personnel working in Northern Caucasus and foster coordination of aid

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 :

Targeted basic and supplementary food as well as non-food items will be distributed in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Daghestan as well as in Azerbaijan.

Shelter rehabilitation (one or two dry rooms) will be conducted in private houses in Chechnya.

Provision of drugs, equipment and training will be ensured in main hospitals in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Daghestan as well as in selected polyclinics and rural primary health centres.

Water and sanitation programmes in Chechnya and Ingushetia will continue to be supported, although they will be phased down in the second half of the year.

The primary education of children will be supported in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Daghestan, as well as child-friendly spaces and kindergartens. Adolescents and young adults will benefit from psycho-social support and vocational training activities in Ingushetia and in Chechnya.

The population in Ingushetia and Chechnya, especially children, will benefit from mine-risk education. Other programmes targeted specifically towards the victims of landmines and other handicapped people (rehabilitation, prosthesis equipment) will continue to be financed.

Income-generation activities will be developed in Chechnya in order to gradually reduce the number of food beneficiaries and allow people to become self-sufficient.

Protection activities will be carried out in all three Republics (funded in the previous decision) and in Azerbaijan.

In order to maximise the impact of the humanitarian aid for the victims, the Commission will maintain a DG ECHO support office located in Moscow and possibly open a sub-office in Northern Caucasus as well, depending on the authorisation of federal authorities and on the security conditions. This office will appraise project proposals, co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of humanitarian operations financed by the Commission. The office will provide technical assistance capacity and the necessary logistics for the achievement of these tasks.

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.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 01 March 2006.

5 - Other donors and donor co-ordination mechanisms.

Donors in RUSSIA the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria		DG ECHO	28,500,000		
Belgium		Other services			
Cyprus					
Czech Republic					
Denmark	243,247				
Estonia					
Finland	1,380,000				
France					
Germany	1,368,938				
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland					
Italy					
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg					
Malta					
Netherlands	1,659,060				
Poland					
Portugal					
Slovakia					
Slovenia					
Spain					
Sweden					
United kingdom					
Subtotal	4,651,245	Subtotal	28,500,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	33,151,245		

Dated : 24/01/2006

(*) Source : DG ECHO 14 Points reporting for Members States. <https://hac.cec.eu.int>
Empty cells means either no information is available or no contribution.

The Commission, thru DG ECHO, remains by far the main donor in the Northern Caucasus, followed by the United States.

A EUR 20 M TACIS programme should start being implemented in 2006 which will focus on Chechnya, Ingushetia and North Ossetia.

6 - Amount of Decision and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1. - Total amount of the Decision: EUR 22,000,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

Principal objective: To improve the humanitarian situation of the victims of the conflict in Chechnya					
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation		Activities	Potential partners⁵
Specific objective 1: To improve the living conditions of people affected by the conflict by providing multi-sectoral assistance	20,000,000	Chechnya, Daghestan Azerbaijan	Ingushetia,	Provision of food and non-food items, water and sanitation, health, shelter assistance, primary education, psycho-social assistance, mine awareness, income-generation activities, protection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ACF - FRA - CARE - AUT - CARITAS - CZE - CARITAS - FRA - CROIX-ROUGE - CICR- ICRC - CH - DRC - HAMMER FORUM - HANDICAP (FR) - HELP - HUNGARIAN INTERCHURCH AID - IRC - UK - MDM - FRA - NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL - POLISH HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATION - UN - FAO-I - UN - UNHCR - BEL - UN - UNICEF - BEL - UN - WFP-PAM - WORLD VISION DEU

⁵ ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM, (FR), CARE OESTERREICH - VEREIN FÜR ENTWICKLUNGSZUSAMMENARBEIT UND HUMANITÄRE HILFE, CARITAS FRANCE - SECOURS CATHOLIQUE, (FR), COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR), DANSK FLYGTNINGEJÆLP, HAMMER FORUM e.V., HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL (FR), HELP- HILFE ZUR SELBSTHILFE E.V. (DEU), International Rescue Committee UK, MEDECINS DU MONDE, Magyar Ökumenikus Szeretetszolgálat, NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL (NOR), Polska Akcja Humanitarna, Sdružení Česká katolická charita, UNICEF, UNITED NATIONS - FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION, UNITED NATIONS - WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES - BELGIUM, WORLD VISION, (DEU)

Specific objective 2: To enhance the security of humanitarian personnel working in Northern Caucasus and foster coordination of aid	320,000	Ingushetia, Chechnya, North Ossetia, Daghestan	Security and coordination.	- UN - UNDP – BEL - UNOCHA
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	250,000	Moscow, Northern Caucasus		
Reserve, max. 10% of the total amount	1,430,000			
TOTAL:	22,000,000			

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.int/comm/ECHO/evaluation/index_en.htm.

8 - Budget Impact article 23 02 01

	CE (EUR)
Initial Available Appropriations for 2006	470,429,000
Supplementary Budgets	
Transfers	
Total Available Appropriations	470,429,000
Total executed to date (by 23/01/2006)	213,950,000
Available remaining	256,479,000
Total amount of the Decision	22,000,000

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

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 aid⁶⁷, and in particular Articles 15(1) and (2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Chechnya conflict has led to a considerable outflow of internally displaced persons (IDPs) into the neighbouring Republics, with Ingushetia and Daghestan currently still hosting some 35,000 IDPs, as well as in the region at large, notably in Azerbaijan which currently hosts 5,500 refugees.
- (2) The continued violence has provoked the displacement of about 200,000 IDPs within Chechnya itself.
- (3) The conflict has widely disrupted the socio-medical infrastructure and agricultural production in large parts of Chechnya, notably Grozny, and put additional strain on infrastructure in the neighbouring Republics, notably Ingushetia.
- (4) Years of displacement and the persistently volatile security situation in the region have – psychologically and financially – exhausted the affected population.
- (5) 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.
- (6) In order to maximise the impact of humanitarian aid for the victims, it is necessary to maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field.
- (7) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 22,000,000 from budget line 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to over **350,000 people**, taking into account the available budget, other donors-contributions and other factors.
- (8) In accordance with Articles 17 (2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No.1257/96, the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave a favourable opinion on 23 February 2006.

⁶ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6

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 22,000,000 for humanitarian aid operations for the victims of the Chechnya conflict by using line 23 02 01 of the 2006 general budget of the European Union.
2. In accordance with Articles 2 and 4 of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objectives:

To improve the living conditions of people affected by the conflict by providing multi-sectoral assistance,

To enhance the security of humanitarian personnel working in Northern Caucasus and foster coordination of aid,

To maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field, to assess needs, appraise project proposals and to coordinate and monitor the implementation of 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 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 01 March 2006.
2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 01 March 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

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 improve the humanitarian situation of the victims of the conflict in Chechnya	
Specific objectives	Amount per specific objective (EUR)
To improve the living conditions of people affected by the conflict by providing multi-sectoral assistance	20,000,000
To enhance the security of humanitarian personnel working in Northern Caucasus and foster coordination of aid	320,000
To maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field, to assess needs, appraise project proposals and to coordinate and monitor the implementation of operations	250,000
Reserve	1,430,000
TOTAL	22,000,000