



Brussels, 19.5.2016
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 19.5.2016

amending Commission Decision C(2015) 8460 of 2.12.2015 on financing humanitarian actions in the Greater Horn of Africa from the 11th European Development Fund (EDF)

ECHO/-HF/EDF/2015/01000

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2015/322 of 2 March 2015¹ on the implementation of the 11th European Development Fund and in particular Articles 6 and 9(4) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2015/323 of 2 March 2015² on the financial regulation applicable to the 11th European Development Fund and in particular Article 26 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Decision C(2015) 8460 adopted on 2 December 2015 provides for the funding of humanitarian actions in Greater Horn of Africa³ from the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) for a total amount of EUR 78 000 000.
- (2) Given the prolonged effect of El Niño weather conditions in the region, the humanitarian situation specifically in Ethiopia and Sudan is deteriorating and continues to have a severe impact on vulnerable populations. In these two countries, the humanitarian consequences of El Niño - particularly severe food insecurity and high rates of under-nutrition - are sustained and reaching unprecedented levels. The 2015/2016 El Niño is considered among the strongest since records began in the region.
- (3) The peak strength of this El Niño is extended throughout the first semester of 2016, having a negative direct impact on the lean season, the period in which the populations are the most vulnerable. Humanitarian assistance needs are much higher than usual at this time of the year. More than 18 million people are food insecure in Ethiopia, of whom more than 10 million⁴ are considered in acute food insecurity urgently needing assistance. In Sudan, El Niño-driven drought is currently affecting over 3.5 million people⁵ in 80 localities⁶. The situation is likely to deteriorate further and recent analysis (FEWSNET) indicates that 4 million people could face a food and nutrition

¹ OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 1.

² OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 17.

³ For the purpose of this document, Greater Horn of Africa covers the following countries: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. South Sudan is not included as it does not qualify for EDF funding.

⁴ 2016 Humanitarian Requirements Document Ethiopia, Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners Document

⁵ El Niño Mitigation 3-month Response Plan, UNOCHA Sudan, 6 January 2016

⁶ 80 localities across Darfur, Abyei PCA, North Kordofan, Blue Nile, Al Gezira, Kassala and Red Sea states

crisis situation (IPC 3)⁷ as of March 2016, twice as high as in a typical year. Many of the most affected areas already face above emergency-level acute under-nutrition rates.

- (4) There is therefore a need to extend the support of immediate food assistance to the most vulnerable households and strengthen the support to the nutrition sector to build the capacity to treat the high under-nutrition rates. Extended support for access to water and sanitation interventions is also needed. Moreover, the timely support to the livelihood of most affected households, in particular seeds for farmers, is essential in coordination with development actors to bridge short-term with medium- and longer-term interventions.
- (5) In addition, as food needs continue to rise, admissions to malnutrition programmes are also rising in the refugee camps in Ethiopia. Ethiopia hosts over 700 000 refugees who are fully dependent on external support. Moreover, natural hazards and conflicts cause forced displacement in Ethiopia. It is estimated that some 200 000 people were internally displaced between August 2015 and March 2016 because of the drought. Some 400 000 more people are still internally displaced for other reasons.
- (6) Sudan is faced by a very serious humanitarian situation with continued problems of access, violence and conflicts resulting in further displacements with 5.4 million people in need of assistance (13% of Sudan's population). The under-nutrition rates are among the highest worldwide. About 3.1 million people are internally displaced and the country is hosting over 390 0000 refugees and asylum seekers.
- (7) It is therefore appropriate to increase the amount of Decision C(2015) 8460 in order to ensure an appropriate humanitarian response and resilience support for the most vulnerable populations in the Greater Horn of Africa region, directly or indirectly affected by events linked to the El Niño phenomenon by EUR 115 000 000 from the 11th European Development Fund (EDF).
- (8) Sudanese populations should benefit from assistance under this Decision in accordance with Articles 6(4) and 9 of Annex IV to the Cotonou Agreement⁸.
- (9) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the EDF Committee set up under Article 8 of the Internal Agreement⁹.
- (10) In view of the foregoing, Decision C(2015) 8460 should be amended,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Decision C(2015) 8460 is amended as follows :

⁷ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

⁸ Partnership agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 (OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.), as first amended in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 (OJ L 209, 11.08.2005, p. 27) and as amended for the second time in Ouagadougou on 22 June 2010 (OJ L 287, 4.11.2010, p. 3).

⁹ Internal Agreement between the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Union, meeting within the Council, on the financing of European Union aid under the multiannual financial framework for the period 2014 to 2020, in accordance with the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, and on the allocation of financial assistance for the Overseas Countries and Territories to which Part Four of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union applies (OJ L 210, 6.8.2013, p. 1.)

Article 1.1 is replaced by the following:

A maximum amount of EUR 193 000 000 from the 11th European Development Fund for the financing of humanitarian aid actions is approved.

Done at Brussels, 19.5.2016

For the Commission
Christos STYLIANIDES
Member of the Commission