



Supporting Document
Decision amending Humanitarian Aid Decision C(2015) 8460
ECHO/-HF/EDF/2015/01000

Title: Commission Decision amending Commission Decision C(2015) 8460 of 02/12/2015 on financing humanitarian actions in the Greater Horn of Africa from the 11th European Development Fund (EDF)

Location of Action: the Greater Horn of Africa region¹

Amount of Decision: EUR 193 000 000

Decision reference number: ECHO/-HF/EDF/2015/01000

1. Explanatory memorandum

Rationale for the amendment

The Commission Decision aims at ensuring 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. The funding initially allocated for this Decision and particularly for Ethiopia and Sudan is not sufficient to properly carry out the actions foreseen for the following reasons:

Ethiopia:

- Malnutrition rates are rising. Currently, still 10.2 million people are considered in acute food insecurity and in need of emergency assistance, in addition to the 7.9 million people who are considered chronically food insecure and who depend on an established safety-net system. These figures provided by the Humanitarian Requirements Document for 2016 have been calculated on the assumption that food and nutrition pipelines would be sufficiently financially supported. However, due to funding shortages, the established food pipeline response is delayed and providing reduced ratios, which are to cover periods of time longer than usual. As a result, a low caloric intake and lack of proteins are affecting the nutritional security of the most vulnerable: children and pregnant and lactating women. A complete break of the food pipeline in Ethiopia by the second half of 2016 is currently a plausible scenario. Concretely, this would mean that no or very limited relief food assistance would be provided to the most vulnerable, leaving people who are dependent on the pipeline for their survival fully on their own.

¹ For the purpose of this document, Greater Horn of Africa covers the following countries: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.

- A large part of those currently in acute food insecurity are in need of support in terms of provision of water and sanitation interventions. Whilst the appeal from December states that 5.8 million people need WASH support, it is estimated that the shortage of water has been underestimated. Recent assessments of the water availability in affected regions show that 3/4ths of the population in districts assessed have far below the accepted minimum standard, without counting the needs of water for livestock. This grave water shortage is life threatening for people of all ages.

- There is an urgent need to protect livelihood assets, prevent further displacement and avoid further food aid dependency in the longer term of the most vulnerable farmer communities. Since estimates made in December 2015, the number of households requiring seeds has now been raised to 1.7 million (some 9 million people), of which only 0.5 million have received some seed support so far. Seeds procurement and distribution are urgently needed in order to follow the cycle of the Belg rains and the upcoming Meher planting season. In addition, more needs to be done to preserve the breeding animals of the livestock. Some areas have experienced hundreds of thousands of deaths amongst the animals. This has a devastating effect on the pastoralist communities.

- In addition, as food needs continue to rise, admissions to malnutrition programmes are also rising within the refugee camps in Ethiopia. Ethiopia hosts over 700 000 refugees² 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 have been internally displaced between August 2015 and March 2016 because of the drought. Some 400 000 more people are still internally displaced for other reasons than the drought³.

- In order to rapidly respond to immediate needs, ECHO will only finance partners already engaged in an ECHO-funded response to the support of the most vulnerable populations directly affected by events linked to the El Niño phenomenon. A list of the pre-selected Partners can be found in annex.

Sudan:

- Below-average rainfalls in 2015 prolonged into 2016 have brought meagre harvests. The El Niño driven drought is currently affecting over 3.5 million people⁴ in 80 localities⁵. The situation is likely to deteriorate further and recent analysis (FEWSNET) indicates that 4 million people could face a food and nutrition crisis situation (IPC 3)⁶ from 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.

- The severe drought has caused serious delays in planting in rain-fed production areas of the country. Recent assessment shows a harvest reduced by 25 percent when compared to the five years average nationwide and 55 percent lower than last year. The reduced harvests are negatively affecting the food availability. Food prices for sorghum are 15 percent to 30 percent higher compared to last year at the same period. Poor pasture conditions and scarcity

² UNHCR Ethiopia Factsheet March 2016. Figures are under revision with the implementation of biometrics for continuous verification.

³ IOM Internal Displacement Update March 2016, OCHA weekly humanitarian bulletin, April 2016.

⁴ El Niño Mitigation 3-month Response Plan, UNOCHA Sudan, 6 January 2016

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

⁶ 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.

of water put more than half of the total livestock in the country at immediate risk. Food stocks of the most vulnerable households are about to run out prematurely this year given the early start of the lean season. Sudanese farmers who planted at the beginning of the year must now wait until the second half of the year for the next harvest. Vulnerable communities are already feeling the pressure relying on early household's assets selling including livestock, low qualified labour income when accessible and reduced number of meals.

- There is an urgent need to extend the support to immediate food assistance to the most vulnerable households and strengthen the support to the nutrition sector in order to build the capacity to treat additional under-nutrition caseloads. Moreover, the timely support to the livelihoods 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.

- In addition, the country is facing a very serious humanitarian situation with continued problems of access, violence and conflicts resulting in further displacements where 5.4 million people are in need of assistance (13% of Sudan's population). 2 million children⁷ are under-nourished, including 500 000 severely, in a country where the under-nutrition rates are among the highest worldwide. A total of 54 out of 184 localities and 7 out of the 18 states of Sudan have an under-nutrition prevalence above 15 percent, which is above the emergency threshold as per the WHO⁸ threshold for assessing severity of under-nutrition. About 3.1 million people are internally displaced. The country is also hosting over 390 000 refugees and asylum seekers. The limited mobilisation of funding from the international community to key sectors is creating major concerns for a timely and adequate response.

2. Proposed Amendment

It is proposed to increase the amount of the Decision C(2015) 8460 by EUR 115 000 000 from the 11th European Development Fund, bringing the total amount of the decision to EUR 193 000 000.

⁷ Humanitarian bulletin, UNOCHA/Sudan 28 March – 3 April 2016

⁸ World Health Organization

Annex 1 - Summary decision matrix (table)

Principal objective: To prevent excess mortality and morbidity among the population directly or indirectly affected by the events linked to the El Niño phenomenon in the Greater Horn of Africa				
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Activities	Potential partners
To provide a coherent, life-saving, multi-sectoral response to the populations directly or indirectly affected by the El Niño events while strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable populations	100 000 000	Ethiopia	Food assistance and livelihoods/ Nutrition/ Health/ Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)/ Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)/ Disaster Risk Reduction/ Protection/ Coordination, information management and advocacy/ Safety and security/logistics	The following partners are pre-selected: <u>Direct management</u> - IRC - CARE - CONCERN WORLDWIDE - GOAL - STC - OXFAM <u>Indirect management</u> - UNICEF - WFP
To provide a coherent, life-saving, multi-sectoral response to the populations directly or indirectly affected by the El Niño events while strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable populations	15 000 000	Sudan	Food assistance and livelihoods/ Nutrition/ Health/ Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)/ Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)/ Disaster Risk Reduction/ Protection/ Coordination, information management and advocacy/ Safety and security/logistics	All ECHO partners
TOTAL	115 000 000			