



Brussels, 4.8.2017
C(2017) 5422 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 4.8.2017

amending Commission Decision C(2017) 2819 of 02/05/2017 on the financing of humanitarian actions in South Sudan and in neighbouring countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda) impacted by the South Sudan crisis to be financed from the 11th European Development Fund (EDF)

ECHO/-AF/EDF/2017/01000

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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 2015 on the implementation of the 11th European Development Fund¹, and in particular Article 6 and Article 9(3) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2015/323 of 2 March 2015 on the financial regulation applicable to the 11th European Development Fund², and in particular Article 26 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Decision C(2017) 2819 adopted on 2 May 2017 provides for the funding of humanitarian actions in South Sudan and in neighbouring countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda) from the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) for a total amount of EUR 100 000 000.
- (2) Since the adoption of the Decision in May, the humanitarian situation in South Sudan has further deteriorated due to continuous conflict and direct targeting of civilians, resulting in massive internal displacement and increased food insecurity. Above 1.9 million South Sudanese have been internally displaced, another 1.9 million have sought refuge in neighbouring countries and around 6 million people are estimated to be severely food insecure in June-July at the height of the lean season. As a result of widespread fighting, displacement, poor access to basic services, lack of sanitation and hygiene, disease outbreaks and extremely poor diet, malnutrition rates are still at alarming levels in many States. Even though, the nutrition and the WASH pipelines are expected to break in August and September respectively, without additional funding.
- (3) In Sudan, the number of South Sudanese refugees has exceeded 420 000 people, located in areas already affected by conflicts and displacements as well as high malnutrition rates. These arrivals have put pressure on already limited basic services, thus creating tensions with local community. A suspected cholera outbreak erupted in 2016 and is currently affecting White Nile State, the region hosting the highest number of South Sudanese refugees.

¹ OJ L 88, 03.03.2015, p. 1

² OJ L 58, 03.03.2015, p. 17

- (4) In Uganda, the massive influx of South Sudanese refugees – almost a million including 277 000 since the beginning of the year – is putting at risk the country's refugee asylum policy and putting pressure on the government of Uganda and the host communities. Some tensions have already been reported between refugees and host communities and the situation is likely to deteriorate further due to persisting fighting in South Sudan.
- (5) There is therefore a need to scale up the humanitarian response in South Sudan to address life-saving needs of the most vulnerable populations and strengthen the support to the sectors of food assistance and nutrition. Extended support for health and WASH interventions are also priorities.
- (6) In Uganda and Sudan, the European Commission shall support integrated responses targeting both refugees and host communities in the sectors of nutrition, WASH, health, shelter, protection, livelihood and targeted food assistance through cash-based transfers. Sustainable approaches that are built on community inclusion at all stages, and that are integrated - when feasible and without compromising humanitarian principles - to existing local capacity shall be prioritised.
- (7) It is therefore appropriate to increase the amount of Decision C(2017) 2819 in order to ensure an adequate humanitarian response to the impact of the crisis, by EUR 20 000 000 from the 11th European Development Fund (EDF).
- (8) The South Sudanese populations in South Sudan and in neighbouring countries impacted by the South Sudan crisis (Sudan and Uganda) should benefit from assistance under this Decision in accordance with Articles 6(4) and 9 of Annex IV to the Cotonou Agreement³.
- (9) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the EDF Committee established under Article 8 of the Internal Agreement⁴.
- (10) In view of the foregoing, Decision C(2017) 2819 should be amended,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Decision C(2017) 2819 is amended as follows :

Article 2 is replaced by the following:

"The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the measure referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 120 000 000 and shall be financed from the 11th European Development Fund.

A total of EUR 80 million from the 11th European Development Fund is allocated to Specific Action 1.

³ 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).

⁴ 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.)

A total of EUR 40 million from the 11th European Development Fund is allocated to Specific Action 2.

The financial contribution provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment."

Done at Brussels, 4.8.2017

*For the Commission
Christos STYLIANIDES
Member of the Commission*