

TALSMANDENS GRUPPE
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BUREAU VAN DE WOORDVOERDER

**INFORMATION
INFORMATORISCHE AUFZEICHNUNG
INFORMATION MEMO**

**NOTE D'INFORMATION
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Brussels, October 1976

**EMERGENCY AID TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
1975 - 1976**

The Community has various means at its disposal enabling it to take rapid action to help associated and other developing countries which are confronted with exceptional difficulties resulting from natural disasters or catastrophes affecting their populations. In the past two years these various means have permitted the Community to deal with extremely varied situations and to undertake 37 emergency operations benefitting the populations of 23 countries.¹

1. Emergency aid for civilian victims of disasters

There is a special appropriation for this form of aid in the Community budget; it is not reserved for operations in favour of developing countries although in 1975 and 1976 it was used for their benefit, with the exception of the aid to the Friuli earthquake victims.

The Community has provided the following aid:

1975

- Vietnam (260 000 u.a.)
- Turkey (100 000 u.a.)
- Angolan refugees (150 000 u.a.)

1976

- Guatemala (700 000 u.a.)
- Lebanon (100 000 u.a.)
- Mozambique (70 000 u.a.)

2. Emergency food aid operations

The purpose of emergency food aid operations is to deal with exceptional situations resulting from events which cannot be foreseen at the time the annual aid programmes are drawn up. This aid, for which a reserve is established each year, generally covers both the supply of the products and the cost of transport. As a rule the products supplied are distributed free of charge to the people concerned by the governments or by specialized organizations whose services are used by the Community (Red Cross, United Nations International Children's Fund, World Food Programme, UNRWA, etc.).

In 1975 these operations involved some 64 000 t of cereals, 5 000 t of skimmed-milk powder and 4000 t of butteroil.

They provided aid to populations affected by:

- (i) conflicts: Vietnam, Cyprus, Angola, Palestinian refugees,
- (ii) natural disasters: Somalia, Haiti, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Pakistan, India, Turkey.

¹This aid is independent of the international emergency operation in favour of the developing countries most seriously affected by the rise in international prices - an operation to which the Community contributed more than \$ 710 million in 1974-75

In 1976 schemes in progress involve about 38 000 t of cereals, 4 800 t of skimmed-milk powder and 2 750 t of butteroil, the total cost being about 14 million u.a. This year's operations have once again made it possible to deal with very varied situations: the consequences of the situation in Southern Africa (aid to Angolan refugees, Mozambique, Zambia and Zaire), the situation of the civilian populations in Lebanon and Vietnam, the destruction of crops and the unforeseeable breakdown in food supplies in Senegal, Niger and Mali.

The Community's main contribution towards attaining the world food security objectives advocated by the Seventh Special Session of the UN General Assembly (500 000 t of cereals) for dealing with emergency situations is the annual constitution of reserves in its food aid programmes: a general reserve (105 000 t in 1976) for direct aid, to which must be added the reserves provided for in the allocations to international organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies and the World Food Programme (a total of 20 500 t in 1976). Provision is made for similar reserves in the programmes of aid in the form of milk products.

3. Exceptional aid provided for under the Lomé Convention

The Lomé Convention also provides for exceptional aid (in grant form). This may be accorded to ACP States faced with serious difficulties resulting from natural disasters or comparable extraordinary circumstances.

A special appropriation has been constituted for this purpose within the European Development Fund; initially fixed at 50 million u.a., it will be replenished at the end of each year to reach a maximum of 150 million u.a. for the duration of the Convention.

Since the entry into force of the Lomé Convention on 1 April 1976, nine operations have been undertaken at a total cost of nearly 47 million u.a. in favour of:

- Niger (supply of groundnut seeds because of the destruction of the crops by aphides),
- Somalia (construction of schools as part of nomad settlement schemes),
- countries affected by the events in Southern Africa: Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, Zaire (purchases of rolling stock or parts),
- Mauritius and Madagascar (repairs to cyclone damage),
- Rwanda (purchases of lorries and fuel to deal with the supply difficulties of this landlocked country).

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