

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(82) 354 final

Brussels, 4th June 1982

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

on emergency aid for refugees, displaced persons and persons affected by events in South-East Asia, Afghanistan, Central America and Angola

---

Emergency situations created by current internal or external conflicts today affect about 4.500.000 people directly (1). Events in Afghanistan, South-East Asia, Central America, Southern Africa and the Horn of Africa are mainly responsible for the present continuing flow of refugees and displaced persons. These victims of current troubles, to whom must be added those affected by the same events in the host countries or regions, are among the most deprived on the planet, as they are almost totally dependent on external aid for all aspects of their survival (food, health, clothing, shelter, etc...).

The worsening situation of these sectors of the population explains the urgent requests for Community aid made recently to the Commission by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Red Cross Committee and certain non-governmental organizations.

The Community has always been mindful of these categories of the population in the past, and has sometimes been the first to take action on a large scale. The need to continue providing them with humanitarian aid is recognised both by the Council and the European Parliament.

---

(1) Out of a total number of about 10 million refugees, who do not all need the same type of assistance.

The Commission considers therefore that the Commission should give a favourable response to these new requests under the special programme for the campaign against world hunger. The following will benefit from the assistance to be provided :

- refugees, displaced persons and persons affected by events in South-East Asia ;
- Afghan refugees in Pakistan ;
- refugees, displaced persons and persons affected by events in Central America ;
- refugees, displaced persons and persons affected by events in Angola.

The emergency aids which the Commission intends to provide to the above categories of people amount in all to 35 million ECU <sup>(1)</sup>. To get a better idea of the scale of this assistance, it should be borne in mind that the Community is providing the same groups of refugees and displaced persons with 29 million ECU worth of food aid this year. With these emergency and food aids, the Community will help, in 1982, to save at least 3.200.000 people, this being the number of beneficiaries of the assistance programmes submitted so far by humanitarian organizations. The necessary budgetary decisions (replenishment of Article 950 of the budget <sup>(2)</sup> via amending and supplementary budget n° 1/82) must be taken as quickly as possible, as the lives of certain groups of people depend on them.

---

(1) The operations covered by this programme do not concern refugees in the Horn of Africa. This does not mean that their situation is less serious, but there are still funds available for this purpose under the Lomé Convention, with which the Commission can provide assistance whenever necessary.

(2) Aid to disaster victims in developing and other non-member countries.

I. Refugees, displaced persons and persons affected by events in South-East Asia.

As a result of the Geneva Conference in July 1979, which provided considerable opportunities for resettlement in other countries, lasting solutions were found for a large number of people temporarily taken in by Thailand and other initial host countries in the region. However, refugees are continuing to flee to these countries (100.000 new arrivals in 1981) ; in spite of departures to permanent host countries (some 120.000 the same year), there are still 343.000 people dependent on international assistance. More than half of them (186.000) are in Thailand, and the others are spread over about ten countries in the region, notably the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, China and Hong Kong.

In addition to these refugees there are 203.000 displaced Khmers at the Thai border, while a further 80.000 Thai villagers have been affected by refugee movements in the area.

According to information provided by the main organizations helping these people, the needs for 1982 amount to 144 million ECU, which can be broken down as follows :

Basic food .....	73,2
Supplementary food .....	3,8
Shelter .....	5,7
Health .....	7,1
Logistics .....	4,0
Social services .....	2,8
Tools, seeds .....	9,3
Domestic utensils .....	5,3

...

Self-sufficiency measures .....	2,0
Water supply and sanitation .....	2,2
Administrative expenses .....	9,8
Prior medical attention and costs of transport to permanent host country .....	9,0
Unspecified expenditure .....	10,0
	<hr/>
	144,2

So far these needs have been covered to the tune of 101,6 million ECU as follows :

- funds made available via UNHCR : 65 million ECU, of which 22,2 million ECU in the form of aid from the United States and 5,5 million ECU in contributions from the Member States, calculated in proportion to their participation in the total budget (see table attached) ;
- funds made available via WFP : 32,1 million ECU ;
- funds made available via ICRC : 4,5 million ECU (of which 206.000 ECU provided by the Member States).

Requirements amounting to 43 million ECU still have to be covered, including 20,4 million ECU in cash.

The Commission considers that the Community should provide emergency aid of 10 million ECU. In addition to this effort, 12.000 tonnes of cereals have been provided as food aid under the 1982 programme, amounting to about 1.800.000 ECU.

...

II. Afghan refugees in Pakistan

The highest concentration of refugees in the world is to be found in Pakistan : Afghans who have sought asylum in this country now number 2.200.000 (UNHCR figure), an increase of 500.000 compared with February 1981.

The camps have reception facilities and the supply of provisions and equipment is well organized. These supplies must be continued without a break if the refugees are to survive. Any let-up in these supplies would be a serious threat to their existence. The Pakistan Government is making considerable efforts to help the refugees, but cannot cope with the situation single-handed. The international community must therefore continue to help the Government meet these needs.

The needs can be put at 205,4 million ECU, broken down as follows :

Basic food .....	131,2
Supplementary food .....	9,1
Storage facilities .....	1,4
Shelter .....	10,0
Health .....	8,9
Clothing, kitchen utensils, blankets, etc... ..	16,6
Agriculture, stock-rearing .....	4,5
Water supply .....	4,6

...

Self-sufficiency (including education and training) .....	3,2
Vehicles, transport of refugees .....	0,2
Administrative expenses .....	2,3
Unspecified expenditure .....	13,4
	<hr/>
	205,4

Requirements totalling 140,5 million ECU are covered, 49 million ECU of which through UNHCR (contributions of 24,2 million ECU from the United States and 4,2 million ECU from the Member States (see attached table) ) and 91,5 million ECU through the World Food Programme. Requirements totalling 55 million ECU therefore still have to be met, including 25,3 million ECU in cash.

The Commission considers that an emergency aid of 10 million ECU would be appropriate, in addition to the food aid recently decided (50.000 tonnes of cereals under the 1982 programme, worth 12 million ECU) and planned (25.000 tonnes of cereals via WFP and 3.000 tonnes of milk powder, worth a total of 9,4 million ECU).

III. Refugees, displaced persons and persons affected by events in Central America.

In Central America the upheavals of the last few years have led to a considerable increase in the number of refugees, mainly Salvadorians (the intensification of the conflict there has caused at least 100.000 people to flee in the last fifteen months), but also Guatemalans and Nicaraguans. There are more than 300.000 in all, some 60.000 of whom are receiving assistance from UNHCR.

...

Apart from the refugees, there have been significant population movements within certain countries, and there are at least 200.000 displaced persons in the region.

The minimum needs for 1982 - i.e. the needs of the 238.000 beneficiaries of the assistance programmes notified to the Commission to date - amount to 51 million ECU.

Food .....	19,9
Shelter .....	3,4
Health .....	3,9
Internal transport .....	4,4
Social services .....	0,5
Agriculture .....	1,7
Domestic utensils .....	3,7
Self-sufficiency measures .....	0,5
Water supply .....	1,3
Administrative expenses .....	3,2
Other .....	0,8
Unspecified expenditure .....	7,2
	<hr/>
	50,5

To date contributions totalling 9,1 million ECU have been made, of which 8 million ECU via UNHCR (2 million ECU from the United States and 0,9 million ECU from the Member States - see attached table) and 1,1 million ECU via the ICRC.

A total of 41 million ECU still has to be found, of which 18,3 million ECU in cash.

The Commission therefore considers that an emergency aid of 10 million ECU would be appropriate, which would be in keeping with the spirit of the European Council's recent decision concerning Central America, in addition to the food aid already decided on (5.000 tonnes of cereals, 500 tonnes of milk powder, 400 tonnes of red beans and 300 tonnes of butteroil, worth in all 2,6 million ECU) and any other food aid which might still be decided on in 1982.



IV. Refugees, displaced persons and persons affected by events in Angola.

As a result of events in Namibia and Zaire, Angola now has some 93.000 refugees on its territory, more than half of them Namibians. Moreover, other events, the latest being the South African incursion in August 1981, have led to widespread population movements within the country : there are currently thought to be 400.000 displaced persons in Angola.

The minimum needs - i.e. those corresponding to the number of beneficiaries (163.000) of assistance programmes currently known to the Commission - are as follows :

Basic food .....	10,8
Shelter .....	1,7
Health .....	3,3
Internal transport .....	5,3
Social services .....	1,0
Agriculture .....	0,7
Domestic utensils .....	0,3
Water supply .....	0,1
Administrative expenses .....	2,4
Unspecified expenditure .....	3,5
	<hr/>
	30,8

An amount of some 18 million ECU has been found towards this total, of which 3,7 million ECU has been made available via UNHCR's ordinary budget (Member States' contribution : 347.000 ECU - see attached table), about 4,5 million ECU via WFP and 10 million ECU via ICRC (of which 115.000 ECU from the Member States).

...

About 13 million ECU are therefore still needed, of which 8 million ECU in cash.

The Commission therefore feels that an emergency aid of 5 million ECU would be appropriate, in addition to the food aid of 5.845 tonnes of cereals, 700 tonnes of butteroil and 350 tonnes of milk powder (total value 2,9 million ECU) provided for under the 1982 programme.

ANNEX

Financial contributions from the Member States  
towards UNHCR's 1982 requirements

ECU

	South-East Asia	Central America	Pakistan	Angola
Belgium	125.480	20.833	93.750	7.812 <sup>(5)</sup>
Denmark	1.338.371 <sup>(1)</sup>	223.062	280.094 <sup>(4)</sup>	83.648
France	214.956	35.826	161.217	13.435 <sup>(6)</sup>
Germany	844.308	140.718	633.231	52.769
Greece	19.200	3.200	14.400	1.200
Ireland	-	-	-	-
Italy	-	-	-	-
Luxembourg	2.031	339	1.524	127
Netherlands	1.431.711	238.618	1.073.783	89.482
United Kingdom	1.573.631 <sup>(2)</sup>	72.519 <sup>(3)</sup>	1.180.223	98.352
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.549.688</b>	<b>735.115</b>	<b>3.438.222</b>	<b>346.825</b>

- (1) plus a specific contribution to ICRC of 73.500 ECU  
(2) plus a specific contribution to ICRC of 132.000 ECU  
(3) plus a specific contribution to UNHCR of 189.753 ECU  
(4) plus a specific contribution to UNHCR of 723.684 ECU  
(5) plus a specific contribution to ICRC of 40.000 ECU  
(6) plus a specific contribution to ICRC of 75.000 ECU