



PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) to provide 2.91 million euro humanitarian aid to help flood-affected people in Bangladesh

Dhaka: European Commission in Brussels, on July 28, announced its decision to provide 2.91 million euro (approximately Taka 215.19 million) emergency funds for flood relief to help rural, flood affected people in Bangladesh. The funds will be channeled through the Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), under the responsibility of Commissioner Poul Nielson.

OXFAM, Action Aid and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) will be responsible for the relief and rehabilitation support funded by ECHO. The ECHO support will allow an integrated approach focusing on immediate relief (distribution of food, non-food relief items, medicines, provisions of Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) and sanitation facilities) but with a rehabilitation component, including food security.

Due to the region's proneness to natural disasters, under DIPECHO (disaster preparedness) programme for South Asia (which includes Bangladesh), South-East Asia, the Caribbean and Central America, ECHO has been funding integrated actions, including training for legal authorities, awareness raising for the wider population, advanced warning systems and propositioning of emergency stocks. DIPECHO has provided 5.7 million euro for South Asia, including specific programmes targeting communities on the Brahmaputra River, which runs through India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

ECHO is one of the world's major humanitarian aid donors, providing more than EURO 600 million in response to natural and man-made disasters in 2003 in more than 60 countries. ECHO channels its contributions through its partner organizations: International Non-Governmental Organizations, the United Nations Agencies and the Red Cross family.

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For more information, please contact

Anwar Hossain
Programme Officer
ECHO Bangladesh Antenna Office
Tel: 8824730 Ext. 132