

Overseas Aid & Development Commission

Disaster Emergency Relief Award Policy

Introduction

The Commission has an annual budget of £200,000 for awards in response to disaster and emergency relief work following catastrophic natural disasters and other major crises and emergencies in the world's least developed countries or where, because of the scale of the disaster or emergency the infrastructure and the usual coping mechanisms of the country are unable to respond quickly and effectively.

General Policy

The Commission's general policy in respect of Emergency Disaster Relief awards is to support appeals launched by the UK Disasters Emergency Committee (the DEC) following a natural disaster or humanitarian crisis.

Exceptional Award Policy

The Commission will exceptionally consider applications from individual charities for awards in response to non-DEC led disasters following a catastrophic natural disaster where the day-to-day patterns of life are suddenly disrupted and the population requires supplies of basic food, shelter and medical supplies to protect them in the immediate aftermath of the disaster.

The Commission will generally not support applications under this policy for funding where the request relates to ongoing civil conflict. The Commission is mindful that its disaster emergency budget is small and the demands on it are considerable and so it has drawn this distinction between one-off catastrophic events and situations arising from civil conflict, where people's lives are increasingly affected by such conflict. However, the Commission may exercise its discretion in exceptional circumstances depending on the nature and the scale of the humanitarian need in question.

Disaster emergency aid funding will normally be provided for one of more of the following activities:

- Provision of water, sanitation, medical services and emergency feeding programmes to disaster affected areas in the immediate aftermath of the disaster
- Provision of emergency shelter and clothing
- Distribution of emergency supplies within the areas affected by the disaster.

In most cases, these awards will be to a maximum of £50,000 per disaster or emergency. The application must set out in detail how the charity proposes to use the funding requested and the budget must show what items will be purchased and in what quantity.

Assessment Criteria

When assessing these applications, the Commission will take the following matters into considerations:

- The nature and extent of the disaster
- The number of people killed, injured or displaced from their homes following the disaster
- The extent of media reporting of the disaster
- The most pressing needs
- Details of other sources of aid being directed to the affected region
- The position of the affected area on the UN Index of Human Development.

It will also contact the DEC, or such other agency it believes may be able to assist it in assessing the application, for expert advice and guidance.

In addition to, the Commission will have regard to whether:

- The DEC is likely to launch an appeal in the very near future (*as a general rule, the Commission is unlikely to make an award to an individual charity if the DEC advises that a national public appeal is likely to be launched within the near future*).
- The applicant charity has launched its own public appeal in response to the disaster and the initial and anticipated public response to the appeal.
- The applicant charity is a DEC member agencies or a major UK-registered charity (*as a general rule, Commission is unlikely to make an award to small charity unless it has an appropriate level of experience and resources to respond to the disaster immediately and efficiently and that it already has staff and resources in the region*).
- The applicant charity has received funding from the Commission under its Grant Aid policy and has fully complied with the terms of such awards.
- The applicant charity is already working in the region affected by the disaster or emergency and so is able to mobilise key staff and resources immediately.
- The applicant charity has relevant experience to respond in a timely manner to the particular disaster and the resources to respond effectively to the particular event.
- Any issues which may have wider public concern to Guernsey.

The Commission will also seek advice and guidance from the Policy Council External Relation Group on issues relating to international sanctions and other international relationship considerations which may arise.