

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)

POLICY SUPPORT

The activities proposed hereafter are still subject to the adoption of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2013/01000

1. CONTEXT

In order to improve the coherence, quality, effectiveness and overall impact of European Union funding, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) is developing a range of policy products. To ensure the highest quality for these products requires the engagement of expertise in the areas concerned, and reinforced networking between humanitarian Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) signatories of the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) with DG ECHO.

2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

The increasing scale of humanitarian needs requires the most effective use of the limited resources available. The diversity of actors and approaches requires clear guidance regarding the best approaches to meet the needs of the beneficiaries. The need for policy products to improve coherence, quality and efficiency applies both directly to DG ECHO funding, and, more broadly, to global approaches to humanitarian funding. This need exists for both sector policy areas (such as Water and Sanitation, and Health - WASH) and horizontal policy areas (such as Gender and Evidence Based Needs Assessment), as well as overall humanitarian principles (such as International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Civil-military coordination). Such broad application requires drawing upon specific expertise from dedicated centres of excellence, as well as informed best practice in the on-going practice of humanitarian aid delivery.

3. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 lays down that humanitarian aid financed by the European Union may be used to finance general studies in the field of humanitarian operations, as well as measures to strengthen the Union's coordination with, inter alia, non-governmental organisations and organisations representing them. Furthermore, the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, adopted by the Council, European Parliament and the Commission on 18 December 2007 and its successive action plan and mid-term review, calls for actions which promote humanitarian principles and law and implement quality aid approaches and which strengthen partnership, coherence and coordination.

Considering the above, DG ECHO is proposing the financing of expertise and networks to contribute to the quality and coherence of policy initiatives in a number of focused sectors (for example WASH, Gender, Health, Disaster Risk Reduction, Evidence Based Needs Assessment, Disaster Data improvements, Logistics, Shelter,

IHL and Civil-military coordination) with the overall aim to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian aid.

The objective is to increase the coherence, quality and effectiveness of humanitarian aid.

The two components are:

1) Provision of expertise to assist policy development in support to humanitarian aid Actions

This would include contributions to, recommendations for and review of policy products under development, and undertaking specific studies and/or analysis to inform the development of policy linked to the achievement of the objectives of the policy area. This may extend to organising workshops with relevant stakeholders to feed the policy making process; studies to review policy implementation or present 'state of the art' thinking in a given policy area; and contributions to the elaboration of training modules in policy related matters.

Identified areas for the development of policy products include WASH, Gender, Health, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Evidence Based Needs Assessment, Disaster Data improvements, Logistics, Shelter, IHL and Civil-military and other humanitarian issues such cluster funding, outreach...

Those interventions will be implemented through grant agreements and/or service contracts, with in particular the renewal of the on-going INSPIRE contract and an administrative arrangement with the JRC to improve and expand the Evidence Based Needs Assessment products.

2) Reinforce networking between humanitarian non-governmental organisations

The broad application foreseen for DG ECHO policy products requires drawing upon informed best practice in the on-going practice of humanitarian aid delivery. Reinforcing networking between partners is an important part of this. Further, such reinforced networking is important both for pursuing issues of humanitarian principles, as well as for broader policy dissemination with a view to improving operational implementation.

This component will be implemented through an operating grant agreement with VOICE (Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies) which is a network representing 84 NGOs active in humanitarian aid worldwide. The aim will be to enhance the cooperation and coordination between European NGOs, reinforcing networking and strengthening the collective influence of NGOs to improve implementation of humanitarian aid projects, and to raising awareness of and engagement with the EU Consensus on Humanitarian Aid.

4. COORDINATION

The policy development process builds on experiences and lessons learned from the humanitarian aid or capacity building actions.

5. OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL DETAILS

The provisions of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2013/01000 and the general conditions of the Partnership Agreement with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

5.1. Contacts¹

Operational Unit in charge : ECHO/A4

Contact persons at HQ : Dominique Albert /Matthew Sayer
in the field : Denis Heidebroek

5.2. Financial info

Indicative Allocation: EUR 2,300,000

Humanitarian Aid budget line: EUR 2,300,000

- EUR 400,000 operating grant with VOICE

- remaining amount for renewal(s) of the INSPIRE contract, Administrative Arrangement with the Joint Research Centre and based on needs, other grant/service contracts (include in particular actions to improve Disaster Data)

5.3. Management issues and eligible organizations

Assessment round 1

- a) Description of interventions relating to this assessment round: component 2 described in section 3 of this HIP.
- b) Indicative amount to be allocated in this round of proposals: EUR 400,000
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2013²
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up to 24 months
- e) Preselected partner:

VOICE is the preselected partner in compliance with Decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2013/01000, as it is a unique organisation in combining a broad network of European NGOs which work in a significant range of humanitarian areas all very pertinent to ECHO's work. These advantages specific to VOICE have been demonstrated through VOICE's track record when working with ECHO, and through various competitive procedures in selecting partners with such a profile.

¹ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL (e-SingleForm)

² The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, what ever occurs latest.

VOICE is a European networks of non-profit humanitarian organisations:

- which are a non-profit legal person; and
- which have their main headquarters in a Member State of the European Union;
and
- with many FPA-partners as active member of the network and as members of the steering board or committee of the network.

f) Information to be provided: Single Form, work programme and last audited accounts.