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**HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)****Enhanced Response Capacity Funding**

Amount: EUR 21 500 000

**The activities proposed hereafter are still subject to the adoption of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2014/01000**

**0. Major changes since previous version of the HIP**

Given the current exceptional level of humanitarian needs and following a review of the submitted proposals, the European Commission decided to reduce the budget allocated for the Enhanced Response Capacity (ERC) HIP by an amount of EUR 2 500 000. The total budget of the revised Enhanced Response Capacity HIP is EUR 21 500 000.

**1. Context**

Globally, humanitarian needs continue to increase substantially, driven principally by the consequences of climate change and population growth. For natural disasters, an average of 269 million people is reported as affected each year<sup>1</sup>. Projections for climate-related natural disasters alone, thus excluding events such as earthquakes, show this rising to as much as 375 million by 2015<sup>2</sup>.

While estimates vary, there is consensus that *"substantially more people may be affected by disasters in the very near future, as climate change and environmental mismanagement create a proliferation of droughts, floods and other disasters. And more people will be vulnerable to them because of their poverty or location. Some of these environmental changes will also increase the threat of new conflicts, which will mean more people displaced, and more need for humanitarian aid. New and existing conflicts, added to the growth in climate-related disasters, are likely to create, by 2015, an unprecedented level of need for humanitarian assistance that could overwhelm the world's current humanitarian capacity"*<sup>3</sup>

In addition to this are the many millions affected by conflict and violence<sup>4</sup>. To address such increases in humanitarian needs, humanitarian budgets must be used as efficiently and effectively as possible to ensure the maximum impact. Therefore, weaknesses and key gaps in the international response system need to be identified and addressed, and

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1 269 million people were affected by natural disasters per year between 2002 and 2011 (The Brookings Institution, 2013 : The Year of Recurring Disasters, A Review of Natural Disasters in 2012)

2 The Right to Survive : The humanitarian challenge in the twenty-first century (<http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/right-to-survive-summary-eng.pdf>)

3 The Right to Survive : The humanitarian challenge in the twenty-first century (<http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/right-to-survive-summary-eng.pdf>)

4 By the end of 2012, some 45.2 million people worldwide were considered as forcibly displaced due to persecution, conflict, generalized violence and human rights violations (UNHCR Global Trends 2012).

ways of working have to be reviewed and improved. In particular, the system will have to become more effective at responding rapidly and effectively in new emergencies, as well as providing a more consistent high-quality response in protracted crises, and notably in "forgotten crises".

## **2. Humanitarian Needs**

Following an extensive consultation process<sup>5</sup>, the main relevant needs identified in the global humanitarian system are set out in the Guidelines for Enhanced Response Capacity, in force since 2010<sup>6</sup>. While there has been progress to date in addressing a number of these, needs remain that require prioritisation.

The overarching aim is ensuring staff professionalism and innovative tools in the global humanitarian architecture, on condition that global strategies and management structures are appropriate to achieve this. Inclusivity and common approaches above and beyond agency specificities will be a key part of this. While support for the effective application of the humanitarian reform process/IASC Transformative Agenda, especially in view of the forthcoming World Humanitarian Summit and its outcomes in shaping the future global humanitarian architecture, will be part of this, the central criterion for ERC funding will be demonstrable impact on the ground.

Within this, a greater demonstrable effectiveness and quality is particularly required for: data gathering, analysis and information management; the application of coordinated needs and risk assessments; emergency preparedness and risk reduction; resilience and local capacity building; cross-cutting issues and improved coordination, and replication of good practice between Global Clusters (as well as between Clusters at global and at country level); professionalism and tools in humanitarian response; support to innovations and greater respect for international humanitarian law and protection. There will be a particular focus on ensuring better and more consistent response by humanitarian actors to forgotten emergencies.

## **3. Humanitarian Response**

The overall rationale is that the investments through humanitarian Enhanced Response Capacity funding to the global humanitarian system lead to more rapid and more cost-effective humanitarian responses – to forgotten and protracted crises as well as new emergencies - allowing better and broader humanitarian coverage.

It is important to note that the Commission needs to target its humanitarian Enhanced Response Capacity building support to a limited number of areas to facilitate leverage and impact, and in line with the DG ECHO<sup>7</sup> Enhanced Response Capacity (ERC) Guidelines. At the strategic level, ERC funding will advance aid delivery improvements in line with the recommendations of recent and long-established DG ECHO policies. Selection of humanitarian assistance tools has to stem from these strategies, from

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<sup>5</sup> Involving partners, donors and other humanitarian stakeholders through questionnaires, roundtables, and follow-up meeting for feedback, and consensus building

<sup>6</sup> As set out in Section 2 above, and in annex II of the Enhanced Response Capacity Guidelines, see: [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding/grants\\_contracts/capacity\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding/grants_contracts/capacity_en.htm)

<sup>7</sup> Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

credible governance structures, and on the basis of a clear situation and response analysis. Where this approach is constrained by the limited experience or skill-sets of humanitarian actors, DG ECHO recognizes the need to invest in strengthening the capacity of the humanitarian system to deliver more varied and appropriate forms of assistance.

The objectives pursued under this HIP will be reached through non-governmental organisations and international organisation partners addressing the seven areas of global needs<sup>8</sup> presented in the ERC Guidelines - Resources (human and technical); Coordination and roll out of the Cluster approach; coordinated needs assessment and related methodologies; Emergency Preparedness, Disaster Risk Reduction, Early Warning; Local Capacity Building; Quality, accountability and respect of humanitarian principles and law; cross-cutting needs (gender, protection etc.) - maintaining a particular focus on the over-arching priority of enhancing the delivery of the global humanitarian system.

Building on successful examples of innovation in the delivery of aid, such as the switch to cash and vouchers in food assistance, the development of innovative tools and approaches that are of direct relevance to aid operations may also be considered, on condition that these tools and approaches will be rapidly deployable in actual emergencies.

The manner of application of these priorities will be informed by the feedback from the recently initiated external evaluation of ERC funding.

To maximize impact, and as set out in the ERC Guidelines, non-governmental organisation and international organisation partners will be strongly encouraged to work together in the implementation of projects, and synergies will be sought through combining responses to the seven identified gap areas and focal areas. For example, facilitate the efficiency of the global response to a crisis through improving linkages between UNDAC<sup>9</sup> and initial Cluster phase, and the promotion of coordinated needs assessment approaches in the rapid response/first phase.

Projects funded under this HIP are expected to bring about concrete outcomes and measurable progress in partners' delivery capacity.

Where appropriate such actions would also be combined with key overall policy directions, such as for example improving global capacity to deliver advocacy and to elaborate new and improved mechanisms and methodologies to be used for response preparedness and risk reduction purposes at different levels.

Given the nature of the actions to be financed under this HIP, and given the principle of 'Inclusiveness' set out in the ERC Guidelines<sup>10</sup>, partners may wish to present joint proposals on behalf of a consortium, or to submit coordinated proposals.

Effective coordination is essential. ECHO supports the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Transformative Agenda (ITA) and encourages partners to demonstrate their

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC)

<sup>10</sup> See [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding/grants\\_contracts/capacity\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding/grants_contracts/capacity_en.htm)

engagement in implementing its objectives, to take part in coordination mechanisms (e.g. Humanitarian Country Team/Clusters) and to allocate resources to foster the ITA roll-out.

Partners will be expected to ensure full compliance with visibility requirements and to acknowledge the funding role of the EU/ECHO, as set out in the applicable contractual arrangements.