

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)**EU Children of Peace**

AMOUNT: EUR 6 712 500

0. MAJOR CHANGES SINCE PREVIOUS VERSION OF THE HIP

Education needs of conflict affected children remain a severely underfunded sector in humanitarian assistance worldwide, although half of the 57 million children without access to education live in conflict-affected areas. Provision of education in conflict settings can be lifesaving, as life-saving items and messages can be passed on to children and schools can be a safe place where children is accounted for and protected from risks.

Given the education needs of conflict affected children described above an amount of EUR 237 500 have been added within the current HIP by a generous contribution from the government of Austria. This additional contribution will be used to ensure that more children affected by conflict will receive education through the EU Children for Peace initiative. The additional funding contributed by Austria will be used towards the funding of proposals already submitted for the EU Children of Peace 2014 HIP.

1. CONTEXT

Children are both particularly vulnerable and particularly exposed to conflicts, as they do not have resources of their own and often lack protection.

Conflicts affect girls and boys in many different ways. As adults, children can be killed or injured – in addition, they are more exposed to the effects of war and to war crimes. They can be recruited by armed groups – as fighters, for sexual exploitation, or forced labour. Children can be separated from their families or forcibly displaced. And they also form a large proportion of antipersonnel mine victims.

Girls and boys are also at times left out of school during or in the immediate aftermath of conflict. The impact of conflict on these children is often long lasting, and in some contexts of protracted crises, they can easily become a "lost generation". An extreme example of long-term behavioural impact is that of some former child soldiers who replicate as adults the violent patterns that they experienced in their childhood, thus perpetuating violence.

On 12 October 2012, the Nobel Prize Committee decided to award the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize to the European Union for over six decades' contribution to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe.

The Commission formally accepted the prize, on behalf of the European Union, on 14 November 2012. The award - an amount of approximately EUR 930 000 (SEK 8 million) – was supplemented by funds from the EU's humanitarian aid budget to provide EUR 2 million in specific support for children affected by conflict and crisis situations (EU Children of Peace initiative). The current Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) provides further support in the same context following the commitment to continue to fund "Children of Peace" projects every year. The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid states that "in responding to humanitarian need particular vulnerabilities must be taken into account. In this context, the EU will pay special

attention to women, children, the elderly, sick and disabled people, and to addressing their specific needs". Furthermore, the present HIP is in accordance with the Commission Communication "A Special Place for Children in EU External Action" (2008) and its accompanying Staff Working Document on Children in Emergency and Crisis Situations¹ in which education in emergencies and child soldiers are among the three focal issues, alongside emphasis on separated and unaccompanied children and children associated with armed forces or armed groups. It will also help the Commission to contribute to the implementation of the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict² (adopted in 2003 and revised in 2008).

2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Half of the 57 million children without access to education live in conflict-affected areas³. Conflicts often last several years and families can remain in refugee or internally displaced person (IDP) camps for a very long time. Failure to provide education during protracted crises undermines entire generations of children, who remain uneducated and unprepared to contribute to their communities' recovery and resilience. Education and recreational activities are crucial for the protection and development of conflict-affected children, as they provide them with necessary psychosocial support, enable them to keep their dignity and to develop their social and human values, and basically restore a certain sense of normality. This is nevertheless a severely underfunded area in humanitarian assistance worldwide⁴. In times of conflict, when the national education structures no longer function and children do not have the possibility of going to school, humanitarian aid may be the sole instrument providing children, and particularly the most vulnerable, access to educational activities, which can also protect them from abuse and exploitation.

To reduce the vulnerability of children affected by conflict, action is, therefore, required in the field of education in emergencies and conflict situations, comprising of, *inter alia*, protection, peace, International Humanitarian Law, mediation and conflict resolution education; child protection (notably unaccompanied children and ex-child soldiers); community-based educational activities in conflict-affected areas, promoting peaceful reconciliation; education in camps; child-friendly spaces; mine-risk training; nonformal education and activities supporting the transition to formal education in conflict-affected areas.

3. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

As the humanitarian response to the educational needs of conflict-affected children suffers disproportionately from underfunding, the Commission intends to expand its support in this area. This follows up on its EUR 2 million financing decision in 2012 incorporating the Nobel Peace Prize money awarded to the European Union and the EUR 4 million financing decision in 2013.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/children_2008_Emergency_Crisis_Situations_en.pdf

² <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/GuidelinesChildren.pdf>

³ Source: Education for All Global Monitoring Report, July 2013.

⁴ Source: "Too little, too late" report, Child Protection Working Group.

This HIP is aimed specifically at promoting education projects in emergencies, targeting children affected by conflict. ECHO⁵ will support education activities in ongoing crises and early recovery phases. It may also support transition to formal education systems in preparation for a development intervention. Furthermore, it may support longer-term educational activities in protracted crises and in refugee/IDP camps. However, ECHO will not provide long-term support to national education systems in post-recovery situations.

Activities funded under this HIP could include components of peace education (i.e. IHL (International Humanitarian Law), mediation, conflict resolution, etc.).

Activities shall be tailored to take into account the different needs of children based on their age, gender and other specific circumstances.

An amount of EUR 475 000 within the current HIP is an external assigned revenue from the government of Luxembourg.

An additional amount of EUR 237 500 within this HIP is an external assigned revenue from the government of Austria.

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.

4. LRRD, RESILIENCE, COORDINATION AND TRANSITION

Education requires a long-term perspective, which humanitarian aid alone cannot provide. Education in emergencies and crisis situations constitutes an opportunity to strengthen coherence and bridge the gaps between humanitarian and development assistance, linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD) and to enhance resilience. Complementarity and synergies with other EU services and funding instruments, in particular those of DEVCO and FPI, will therefore be sought. In addition, complementarity and synergies with funding provided by the Global Partnership for Education is encouraged.

⁵ Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection