

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)

Enhanced Response Capacity Funding

The activities proposed hereafter are still subject to the adoption of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2017/01000

Amount: EUR 4 675 000

The present Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) was prepared on the basis of financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2017/01000 (Worldwide Decision) and the related General Guidelines for Operational Priorities on Humanitarian Aid (Operational Priorities). The purpose of the HIP and its annex is to serve as a communication tool for ECHO's partners and to assist in the preparation of their proposals. The provisions of the Worldwide Decision and the General Conditions of the Agreement with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

1. Context

Humanitarian needs

Humanitarian needs globally continue to increase substantially. Overall, more than 125 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. UN humanitarian appeals target an estimated number of 95.4 million people in need, representing an increase by 50% compared to 2012. At the end of 2015, the number of people forcibly displaced had risen to a staggering 65.3 million, with over 40 million people are displaced within their own country. Globally, humanitarian needs are likely to continue to increase as a consequence of conflict, climate change, food scarcity, urbanisation and inequalities which erode the capacity to cope and exacerbate vulnerability, fragility and violent conflicts.

Humanitarian response

In June 2016, the United Nations coordinated appeals amounted to nearly USD 21.7 billion with only 25% of the appeal funded at this stage. In 2015, governments and private donors provided USD 28 billion for humanitarian assistance, compared to USD 18 billion in 2012.

The capacity gap

The capacity of humanitarian actors to respond to the needs has been stretched to the limit. The increased funding for humanitarian assistance has not been sufficient to cover the increased needs. In January 2016, the United Nations Secretary General's High Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing (HLPHF) estimated the financing gap to be close to USD 15 billion. At the same time, the exponential increase of humanitarian operations over the past years constitutes a challenge in itself. The HLPHF identified three aspects of the humanitarian funding challenge: reducing the needs, mobilising additional funds, and improving the efficiency of humanitarian assistance. Focusing on practical options to increase the efficiency of humanitarian action, the "Grand Bargain" is a set of joint commitments by humanitarian donors and 'doers'. As one of the signatories of the "Grand Bargain", the European Commission/DG ECHO is committed to doing its part as a donor to make humanitarian assistance more efficient. In parallel to scrutinizing and careful

revising internal working practices, DG ECHO will support its partners to put into practice their part of the commitments of the "Grand Bargain" – to ensure the 'bargain' is maintained.

The humanitarian eco-system

Humanitarian assistance is provided by a range of actors with different mandates, financial and technical capacities, specialization and institutional cultures. While a basic set of structures and rules exist (namely the governance architecture defined by the Transformative Agenda), the division of labour and interaction within the so-called ecosystem is largely driven by shared commitments, established practice as well as experience and expectations.

The humanitarian eco-system is dominated by UN organizations, which play a dual role as implementer and donors; international NGOs, with varying degree of technical or geographic specialization; and donors with different budgets and capacity. Local responders have increasingly been recognized as key actors in the humanitarian response and as such their role should be strengthened beyond that of a sub-contractor. Furthermore, a number of organizations, who do not provide humanitarian assistance themselves, deliver specialist services to humanitarian organizations. Sometimes called H2H¹, these service providers can be, due to their position in the ecosystem and their technical specialization, particular drivers for innovation.

The boundaries of the humanitarian eco-system are permeable and evolving. Depending on the context, humanitarian actors engage with local authorities, the international and local private sector, non-humanitarian civil society organizations and networks, the military and civil protection actors.

The capacity to respond to humanitarian needs in an effective and efficient manner is thus closely linked to the capacity of the humanitarian eco-system to work in a coordinated, complementary manner. Strengthening humanitarian response capacity is thus not about creating new institutions and normative systems. Rather it starts with recognizing the variety of actors, their comparative advantages, the modes of interaction and their respective contribution to a collective response. Targeted support through funding mechanisms like the Enhanced Response Capacity can help improve and adjust the system to new realities and actors, support the introduction of new tools to be used by all relevant parties and contribute to creating a body of knowledge and skills to draw from.

DG ECHO's past work to support humanitarian capacity

Through the Enhanced Response Capacity and geographic funding, as well as engagement on policy and technical level, DG ECHO has contributed substantially to strengthening the capacities of humanitarian actors and helped shape the governance of the international humanitarian system. Although DG ECHO is convinced that all humanitarian actors need to be committed in maintaining and expanding the capacity of

¹ For "Humanitarian to Humanitarian", inspired by the concept of B2B – Business to Business.

the humanitarian system, it is aware that, as a donor, DG ECHO remains committed to support its partners in consolidating, securing and adapting capacity gains.

2. Humanitarian Needs

Needs Assessment

There has been considerable investment to improve the way humanitarian organizations develop an understanding of needs of crisis affected populations in order to take strategic and operational decision regarding effective and efficient humanitarian response. Common and sector specific methodologies and tools for needs assessment have been developed, and progress has been made in strengthening the quality and availability of evidence, including the rollout of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle and greater efforts to implement a coordinated assessment approach. However, there continues to be a multiplication of assessments which are not properly coordinated. Questions are raised regarding the comprehensiveness, impartiality, timeliness and transparency of the assessments. Humanitarian appeals continue to lack a sound evidence base and a well-argued prioritization. In order to obtain reliable and useful information to base strategic decisions on, more needs to be done to reinforce efficient collaboration and to make coordinated, multi-sector assessments the standard practice and an expected process and product for all humanitarian actors in a crisis.

Transparency

Transparency on humanitarian action is crucial to increase efficiency, reinforce accountability and facilitate evidence based decision making. Data which is currently shared through different platforms is largely focusing on financial inputs, not results. It lacks granularity and doesn't allow following funding from the donor all the way to the beneficiary. Databases and systems are not fully compatible; formats and terminology are not harmonized or user-friendly. The collective commitment to increase transparency should be joined up with the work on harmonized reporting between implementers and donors.

Local and non-traditional actors

The increasing number and variety of actors, including the private sector, participating in humanitarian action is an opportunity to better meet the needs of vulnerable people, but also represents a challenge in terms of ensuring quality, appropriateness, coordination and coherence of humanitarian action. Local organizations, which are often best placed to respond quickly and in a context sensitive and sustainable manner, are confronted with administrative requirements and legal constraints which prevent them from directly accessing international funding. The capacity to implement humanitarian projects according to international standards varies and risks being undermined by the brain drain of skilled staff to international organizations.

Humanitarian space, protection and respect for international law

The increasing number of complex emergencies and violent conflicts, and the increasingly widespread disregard of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Human Rights Law and Refugee Law has in many respects reached crisis levels resulting in the

shrinking of the protective space as well as in lack of access to vulnerable populations, violations of IHL, including attacks on civilians, humanitarian and health care workers and their facilities. The need to urgently address them featured prominently in the WHS, and is one of the main issues raised by the UN SG reports on the WHS.

Urban settings

Humanitarian needs and risks in urban settings are a particular challenge in terms of scale, identification, technical implications, legal constraints and institutional actors. With growing humanitarian needs in urban contexts, greater capacity and expertise is required to adapt humanitarian action, including management of risk, in urban environments.

3. Humanitarian Response

The overarching aim of DG ECHO's Enhanced Response Capacity is to strengthen the capacity of humanitarian actors to respond to the increased scale and evolving nature and context of humanitarian crisis worldwide in an effective and efficient manner.

The Enhanced Response Capacity provides seed funding to initiatives which develop and roll-out new approaches and new ways of working. These initiatives are expected to be subsequently integrated into permanent structures which ensure continuity and long-term resources.

Innovation can play an important role in substantially increasing the capacity of humanitarian actors. In the context of the Enhanced Response Capacity, innovation is understood to include all approaches that foster problem-solving capacity leading to the development and implementation of new ideas for products, services and processes. These could be specifically developed for the humanitarian aid context, but in many cases are actually transferred from other sectors or areas in which they have already proven to be effective. Quality, effectiveness and positive impact on the ground remains the ultimate criterion of success of innovation and humanitarian aid delivery in general.

For the 2016-17 funding, DG ECHO will focus in particular on:

1) Implementation of commitments of the "Grand Bargain" and the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS)

While many of the work streams and commitments of the "Grand Bargain" require above all internal work for donors and implementers, DG ECHO seeks to support projects which would serve as catalysts for change to move ahead collectively with specific "Grand Bargain" commitments. Priority areas in this regard are coordinated and impartial needs assessments, transparency and local responders.

The Enhanced Response Capacity will support multi-stakeholder initiatives with broad support by implementing agencies and donors in order to increase their potential in terms of sustainability and uptake. The "Grand Bargain" constitutes a particular opportunity in this regard.

As a co-convenor of the needs assessment work stream, DG ECHO seeks to support initiatives which strengthen the capacity of the humanitarian community to produce

comprehensive and impartial needs assessments in a transparent, coordinated and timely manner which can serve strategic decision making in terms of response planning and funding. Independent, specialist actors working together with humanitarian implementing agencies and coordination bodies can play an important role in data collection and analysis. Furthermore, in order to support the capacity of the collective to learn and continuously improve, but also to establish trust in the outputs of the needs assessments, DG ECHO seeks to support initiatives which propose to provide timely, independent reviews and evaluations of needs assessments through a transparent, inclusive process.

Increased transparency can contribute to accountability, but also reduce management costs and reporting if information is published in a timely and harmonized manner by all humanitarian organizations. DG ECHO seeks to support initiatives which expand the scope of what is published through existing open databases, foster harmonization of data and interoperability of tools and reduce parallel systems.

DG ECHO seeks to expand its support to initiatives reinforcing the role of national and local responders in emergency preparedness and response. In this regard, a particular focus is placed on the integration of local responders in international humanitarian policy processes, capacity building of local organizations and experts as well as knowledge sharing.

Social safety nets

Existing safety nets are increasingly recognized as efficient and sustainable mechanisms to respond to humanitarian needs, while ensuring the local ownership of the response, dovetailing with ongoing and future EU-funded operations, including large-scale such as the Emergency Social Safety Net in Turkey. DG ECHO seeks to support initiatives to understand and use existing national safety nets in humanitarian response as well as to make them (more) shock responsive.

Urban Crisis

During the WHS, a policy commitment on urban humanitarian crises was made for the first time by stating support for Global Alliance for Urban Crises and its underpinning principles, the capability to adapt practice to differing contexts. DG ECHO will support initiatives which make available urban expertise in disaster risk management, response and preparedness.

Emergency health response

As recognised at the WHS, emergency health response capacities are insufficient to address the humanitarian dimension of the increasing frequency and speed of transmission of epidemic disease and the growing health needs in conflict contexts. DG ECHO will support initiatives which aim at strengthening global capacity to rapidly intervene in response to local needs.

Education in Emergencies

The WHS recognised education as a life-saving and a basic need. To complement the EU's commitment to allocate up to 10% of its humanitarian budget for education in

emergencies before the end of the current Commission mandate and the EU's support to the new fund "Education Cannot Wait", global sector governance mechanisms will be supported to improve the global, regional and local coordination, thereby increasing the effectiveness and quality of education in emergencies response on the ground. In addition, DG ECHO seeks to support initiatives that build evidence on as well as generate practical guidance, tools and capacities to implement multi-sectorial and integrated approaches to education in emergencies.

Collaboration with the private sector in humanitarian contexts:

DG ECHO seeks to support initiatives which bring together and coordinate humanitarian organizations with the local and international private sector as well as aim to ensure that the private sector respects the existing principles, standards and codes of conduct on quality humanitarian assistance.

Innovative tools and approaches:

Given the growing humanitarian needs and the limited response capacity of humanitarian actors, innovative tools and approaches are key to ensuring an efficient and effective response. Harnessing the knowledge, skills and experience of a wide range of stakeholders, including the private sector and academia, and increasing the capacity of the humanitarian system to find new and better ways to bring innovations to scale will be considered.

Gender Based Violence (GBV)

The response to gender-based violence and the implementation of the Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies road map will continue to be a priority for DG ECHO.

Humanitarian space, protection and respect for international law

Given the increasing number of complex emergencies and violent conflicts, and the widespread disregard of International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights Law and Refugee law, resulting in the shrinking of the protective space as well as in lack of access to vulnerable populations, support to organisations active in these areas will equally be considered.

2) Humanitarian coordination:

Building on previous efforts, lessons and successes, DG ECHO will still continue to support governance mechanisms and their concrete application in crises, sustaining and expanding good practice in this regard. DG ECHO will provide targeted funding for global, dedicated support functions for crisis level preparedness and emergency coordination under the umbrella of the global clusters².

² Global clusters are expected to be inclusive in the sense of actively involving all humanitarian organizations with substantial capacity and activity in the respective sector, to have a clear strategy and dedicated leadership and to seek collaboration with existing disaster response mechanism, namely national

3) Visibility

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

governments. Global Cluster core functions such as the (deputy) global cluster coordinator, the maintenance of websites and existing documentation as well as annual meetings should be covered core budgets of the Cluster Lead Agency and cluster members and thus are generally not eligible for funding under ERC.