

TECHNICAL ANNEX

CARIBBEAN, CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO

FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

The provisions of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2015/01000 and the General Conditions of the Agreement with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

The activities proposed hereafter are subject to any terms and conditions which may be included in the related Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP).

1. CONTACTS

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2. FINANCIAL INFO

Indicative Allocation: EUR 24 582 000

Natural disasters:	HA-FA: EUR 15 243 000
DIPECHO	Disaster Preparedness: EUR 9 339 000
Total:	HA-FA/DP: EUR 24 582 000

3. PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT

3.1. Administrative info

Assessment round 1: HAITI

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 11 600 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: All interventions as described in section 3.4 of the HIP related to Haiti.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2015¹. Actions may start from 01/01/2015.
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up to 12 months for response projects and up to 18 months for projects related to resilience-building.
- e) Potential partners: All ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form, including resilience marker²
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 26/01/2015³

Assessment round 2: CARIBBEAN/DIPECHO

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 9 339 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: All interventions as described in section 3.4 of the HIP related to Caribbean/DIPECHO.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/03/2015⁴. Actions may start from 01/03/2015.
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up to 18 months for projects incorporating DRR/resilience.
- e) Potential partners: All ECHO Partners.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form⁵.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 19/01/2015⁶

¹ 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, whatever occurs latest.

² Single Forms will be submitted to ECHO using APPEL, completing also the section on the resilience marker.

³ The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

⁴ Idem footnote 1

⁵ Idem footnote 2

Assessment round 3

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 3 643 000.
- b) This assessment round corresponds to the need described in section of the revised Humanitarian Implementation Plan and in line with sections b, c and e of the Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2016
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up to 18 months
- e) Potential partner: All partners
- f) Information to be provided: modification request of on-going operation or Single Form
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 18 /01 /2016

3.2. Operational requirements:

3.2.1. Assessment criteria:

The assessment of proposals will look at:

- The compliance with the proposed strategy (HIP) and the operational requirements described in this section.
- Commonly used principles such as: quality of the needs assessment and of the logical framework, relevance of the intervention and coverage, feasibility, applicant's implementation capacity and knowledge of the country/region.
- In case of actions already being implemented on the ground, where ECHO is requested to fund a continuation, a visit of the ongoing action may be conducted to determine the feasibility and quality of the Action proposed.

3.2.2. Operational guidelines:

3.2.2.1. General Guidelines

In the design of the operation, ECHO policies and guidelines need to be taken into account:

The EU resilience communication and Action Plan

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo/en/what/humanitarian-aid/resilience>

⁶ Idem footnote 3

Food Assistance

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo/en/what/humanitarian-aid/food-assistance>

Nutrition

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/news/201303_SWDUndernutritioninemergencies.pdf

Cash and vouchers

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo/en/what/humanitarian-aid/cash-and-vouchers>

Protection

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo/en/what/humanitarian-aid/protection>

Children in Conflict

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

Emergency medical assistance

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo/en/what/humanitarian-aid/health>

Civil–military coordination

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo/en/what/humanitarian-aid/civil-military-relations>

Water sanitation and hygiene

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

Gender

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/Gender_SWD_2013.pdf

Disaster Risk Reduction

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/prevention_preparedness/DRR_thematic_policy_document.pdf

Health guidelines

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo/en/what/humanitarian-aid/health>

ECHO Visibility website – visibility and communication manual

<http://www.echo-visibility.eu/>

http://www.echo-visibility.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/2014_visibility_manual_en.pdf

A set of overall principles needs to guide every operation supported by ECHO.

The humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, in line with the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, and strict adherence to a "**do no harm**" approach remain paramount.

The safe and secure provision of aid: the ability to safely deliver assistance to all areas must be preserved. ECHO requests its partners to include in the project proposal details on how safety and security of staff (including the staff of implementing partners) and

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assets is being considered as well as an analysis of threats and plans to mitigate and limit exposure to risks. ECHO or its partners can request the suspension of ongoing actions as a result of serious threats to the safety of staff.

Accountability: partners remain accountable for their operations, in particular:

- The identification of the beneficiaries and of their needs using, for example, baseline surveys, KAP-surveys, Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) or beneficiary profiling;
- Management and monitoring of operations, and having adequate systems in place to facilitate this;
- Reporting on activities and outcomes, and the associated capacities to collect and analyse information;
- Identification and analysis of logistic and access constraints and risks, and the steps taken to address them.

Remote management: ECHO does not fund actions using remote management, other than in exceptional circumstances, where access to a crisis zone is limited due to security concerns or bureaucratic obstacles. This mode of operations should therefore only be proposed as a last resort, and in the context of life-saving activities.

Gender-Age Mainstreaming: Ensuring gender-age mainstreaming is of paramount importance to ECHO, since it is an issue of quality programming. Gender and age matter in humanitarian aid because women, girls, boys, men and elderly women and men are affected by crises in different ways. Thus, the assistance needs to be adapted to their specific needs - otherwise it risks being off-target, failing its objectives or even doing harm to beneficiaries. It is also a matter of compliance with the EU humanitarian mandate and the humanitarian principles, in line with international conventions and commitments. All project proposals/reports must demonstrate integration of gender and age in a coherent manner throughout the Single Form, including in the needs assessment and risk analysis, the logical framework, description of activities and the gender-age marker section. The Gender-Age Marker is a tool that uses four criteria to assess how strongly ECHO funded humanitarian actions integrates gender and age consideration. For more information about the marker and how it is applied please consult the Gender-Age Marker Toolkit

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

Protection: Mainstreaming of basic protection principles in traditional assistance programmes is of paramount importance to ECHO. This approach is closely linked to the principle of 'do no harm', and also extends the commitment of safe and equal access to assistance as well as the need for special measures to ensure access for particularly vulnerable groups. All proposals MUST demonstrate integration of these principles, but also in its substantive sections, i.e. the logical framework, result and activity descriptions, etc.

Integration of protection concerns should, in particular, be reflected in any actions implemented in a displacement- hosting context (be it refugees or IDPs), in situations of conflict or in contexts where social exclusion is a known factor, where considerations on

inter-communal relationships are of utmost importance for the protection of the affected population.

While humanitarian assistance often focuses on community-level interventions, it is important to remember that, in order to fully address many protection issues, it is also necessary to consider the relevance and feasibility of advocacy (structural level) interventions aimed at (a) stopping the violations by perpetrators and/or (b) convincing the duty-bearers to fulfil their responsibilities.

Do no harm: Partners should ensure that the context analysis takes into account threats in addition to vulnerabilities and capacities of affected populations. The analysis should bring out both external threats to the target population as well as the coping strategies adopted to counteract the vulnerabilities. The risk equation model provides a useful tool to conduct this analysis. The model stipulates that *Risks equals Threats multiplied by Vulnerabilities divided by Capacities*, and the way to reduce risks is by reducing the threats and vulnerabilities and increasing the capacities. Depending on the type of threat faced by the population in question, reducing it can be anything from possible/straightforward to impossible/dangerous. In the latter case, one will resort to focusing on vulnerabilities and capacities, but the fact that the analysis has acknowledged the threat will contribute to ensuring that the response subsequently selected does not exacerbate the population's exposure to the risk.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR): As part of the commitment of ECHO to mainstream disaster risk reduction in its humanitarian operations, the needs assessment presented in the Single Form should reflect, whenever relevant, the exposure to natural hazards and the related vulnerability of the targeted population and their livelihoods and assets. This analysis should also assess the likely impact of the humanitarian intervention on both immediate and future risks as well as the partner's institutional commitment to and operational capability in managing risk (technical competence in the relevant sectors of intervention. The DRR approach and related measures are relevant in all humanitarian sectors (WASH, nutrition, food assistance and livelihoods, health, protection, etc.), and should be systematically considered in hazard-prone contexts. Risk-informed programming across sectors should protect operations and beneficiaries from hazard occurrence, and include contingency arrangements for additional or expanded activities that might be required. Information from early warning systems should be incorporated into programme decision making and design, even where the humanitarian operation is not the result of a specific hazard.

For targeted DRR interventions, the information in the Single Form should clearly show that:

- all risks have been clearly identified, including their possible interactions;
- the intervention strengthens and promotes the role of the state and non-state actors in disaster reduction and climate change adaptation from national to local levels;
- the measures planned are effective in strengthening the capacity of communities and local authorities to plan and implement local level disaster risk reduction activities in a sustainable way, and have the potential to be replicated in other similar contexts;

- the intervention contributes to improving the mechanisms to coordinate disaster risk reduction programmes and stakeholders at national to local levels.
- demonstrate that the action is designed including the existing good practice in this field;
- the partner has an appropriate monitoring, evaluation and learning mechanism to ensure evidence of the impact of the action and good practice are gathered, and effectively disseminated.

Strengthening coordination: Partners should provide specific information on their active engagement in cluster/sector and inter-cluster/sector coordination: participation in coordination mechanisms at different levels, not only in terms of meetings but also in terms of joint field assessments and engagement in technical groups and joint planning activities. The partners should actively engage with the relevant local authorities and, when feasible and appropriate, stipulate co-ordination in Memoranda of Understanding. When appropriate, partners should endeavour to exchange views on issues of common interest with actors present in the field (e.g. EU, UN, AU missions, etc.). In certain circumstances, coordination and de-confliction with military actors might be necessary. This should be done in a way that does not endanger humanitarian actors or the humanitarian space, and without prejudice to the mandate and responsibilities of the actor concerned.

Integrated approaches: Whenever possible, integrated approaches with multi- or cross-sectoral programming of responses in specific geographical areas are encouraged to maximize impact, synergies and cost-effectiveness. Partners are requested to provide information on how their actions are integrated with other actors present in the same area.

Resilience: ECHO's objective is to respond to the acute humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable and exposed people while increasing their **resilience** in line with EU resilience policy. Where feasible, cost effective, and without compromising humanitarian principles, ECHO support will contribute to longer term strategies to build the capacities of the most vulnerable and address underlying reasons for their vulnerability – to all shocks and stresses.

All ECHO partners are expected to identify opportunities to reduce future risks to vulnerable people and to strengthen livelihoods and capacities. ECHO encourages its partners to develop their contextual risk and vulnerability analysis and to adapt their approach to the type of needs and opportunities identified. This requires partners to strengthen their engagement with government services, development actors and with different sectors. In that regard, ECHO partners should indicate how they will increase ownership and capacity of local actors whenever possible: community mobilisation, CSOs, technical dialogue, coordination and gradual transfer of responsibilities to countries' administration or relevant line ministries.

Good coordination and strategic complementarity between humanitarian and development activities (LRRD approach) are essential to the resilience approach, particularly in relation to i) increasing interest of development partners and governments on nutrition issues; ii) seeking for more sustainable solutions for refugees (access to

education, innovative approach toward strengthening self-resilience, etc.); iii) integrating disaster risk reduction into humanitarian interventions.

Community-based approach: In all sectors, interventions should adopt, wherever possible, a community-based approach in terms of defining viable options to effectively help increasing resilience and meeting basic needs among the most vulnerable. This includes the identification of critical needs as prioritised by the communities, and the transfer of appropriate knowledge and resources.

Response Analysis to Support Modality Selection for all Resource Transfers is mandatory. ECHO will support the most effective and efficient modality of providing assistance, whether it be cash, vouchers or in-kind assistance. ECHO does not advocate for the preferential use of either (i) cash/voucher-based or (ii) in-kind humanitarian assistance. Partners should provide sufficient information on the reasons about why a transfer modality is proposed and another one is excluded. The choice of the transfer modality must demonstrate that the response analysis took into account the market situation in the affected area. Multiple contextual factors must be taken into account, including technical feasibility criteria, security of beneficiaries, agency staff and communities, beneficiary preference, needs and risks of specific vulnerable groups (such as Pregnant and Lactating Women, elderly, child headed households etc.), mainstreaming of protection (safety and equality in access), gender (different needs and vulnerabilities of women, men, boys and girls) concerns and cost-effectiveness. Therefore for any type of transfer modality proposed, the partner should provide the minimum information as recommended in the 'Thematic Policy Document n° 3 - Cash and Vouchers: Increasing efficiency and effectiveness across all sectors' and demonstrate that the modality proposed will be the most efficient and effective to reach the objective of the action proposed.

For in-kind transfer local purchase are encouraged when possible.

3.2.2.2. Specific guidelines

Haiti

Resilience

All actions funded have to contribute to the overall goal of resilience building to the largest extent possible. Actions should be in line with a national resilience strategy and seek to promote institutionalization.

Displacement

Interventions in the camps should be targeted according to criteria of vulnerability (such as risk of eviction, risk of natural disasters, protection issues etc.). Integration of DRR tools for most vulnerable families or risk mapping is encouraged. Partners should explore options of working with and capacity building of local actors.

Basic services in camps - WASH

- Needs-based approach: All actions related to the WASH sector in IDP camps should be based on a comprehensive assessment of the three components of water, sanitation, and hygiene.
- WASH solutions adapted to the needs and used by the population living in the camps should be strengthened/improved where relevant.
- Support could be envisaged (but is not limited) to:
 - Sanitation: solutions ensuring proper management and maintenance of sanitation facilities (such as latrines, drainage, etc...), rehabilitation of existing sanitation infrastructures or creating conditions to improve vector control and basic solid waste management for the population living in the camps
 - Safe water consumption: ensure consumption of enough safe water at household level. Actions aiming at improving water quality at household level, adequate storage to increase water availability or household water treatment could be envisaged
 - Hygiene: create conditions for behaviour change in key areas known to have an impact on the risk of outbreaks and disease transmission, with a focus on a limited number of issues and simple messages (e.g. hand washing at key moments of the day, safe water storage and handling, use of sanitation facilities)
- WASH actions targeting camp populations likely to remain and be integrated into the neighbourhood should be in line with the perspective presented in section 8.2.2. of ECHO WASH Policy. Short-term effective WASH response to recurrent emergencies in essential services could be envisaged at least until the end of the relocation exercise.

Protection

The issue of forced eviction is expected to become more and more critical in 2015, and particular attention will have to be paid to camps at high risk of forced eviction as well as camps with temporary shelters.

The response to other protection issues such as gender-based violence or child protection of earthquake-affected vulnerable populations in Port-au-Prince could also be promoted, e.g.

- Surveillance of camps at risk of eviction and prevention measures.
- Assistance to victims of evictions (counselling, accommodation, legal, administrative support).
- GBV/Child protection: active case search through community outreach, case management and referral (medical, psychosocial, legal, safety and security).
- Basic activities linked to documentation.

In an urban context where basic humanitarian needs have underlying structural causes like extreme poverty, a holistic approach is important aiming at addressing the vulnerabilities of the population in order to build their resilience to shocks. While supporting the durable reintegration of IDPs, the extremely vulnerable in the host communities should also be considered to the extent possible together with reinforcing social/community cohesion and building the capacity of existing community structures.

Relocation and reintegration

Support to finding more adequate and dignified housing solutions for the most vulnerable IDPs and helping them to leave the camps should be based on a thorough assessment of the needs and the different solutions available and best suited for each camp. With the approach of reinforcing the resilience of vulnerable populations, promoting durable solutions for displaced people should be the overall aim:

- Based on vulnerability criteria, rental subsidies using criteria that respect humanitarian principles and international standards, including the voluntary nature of the return.
- In camps where camp integration is feasible, diagnostic activities could be considered as long as they are part of a larger development strategy of the neighbourhood.
- Support to IDP reintegration into places of return with short-term activities such as training, income generating activities, family coaching, etc. ensuring targeting the most vulnerable ones.
- Special focus on extremely vulnerable families (handicapped, elderly, etc.).
- Capitalization of good practices and lessons learned.

Food security/livelihoods

- Respond to acute needs and improve capacities of people affected in order to be better prepared and reduce vulnerability to shocks through livelihood protection and strengthening.
- Actions should take into account vulnerability to shocks, affecting food security.
- A holistic approach with regard to livelihoods should be promoted in order to build the resilience of the most vulnerable families.
- Targeting of areas and beneficiaries based on food security indicators should be ensured. Areas most affected by acute food insecurity should be prioritized, based on IPC analysis.
- Food security and livelihoods information and analysis should be used for project design and monitoring and evaluation (livelihoods profiles, IPC info, food security assessments etc).
- Interventions should include support and coordination with information systems.
- Reinforcement of capacities aiming at increasing the resilience of communities and institutions should be sought and close coordination with national institutions and initiatives ensured.
- Strategic LRRD with development initiatives should be sought.
- Nutrition-sensitive interventions are encouraged.
- Mainstreaming of basic protection principles in all food security and livelihood projects.

Cholera (Health and WASH)

The first priority of ECHO in this regard remains a rapid, comprehensive and effective health and WASH-integrated response to cholera. Actions related to the response to the on-going outbreak should:

- Maintain and strengthen an operational approach, combining coordinated actions in health and WASH sectors
- Maintain the absolute priority to rapid response to cholera alerts and outbreaks.

In health, particular attention should be given to:

- Strengthening the epidemiological surveillance system, using both institutional and community based systems
- Systematically using cholera rapid tests in order to launch a response only based on positive cases
- Maintaining and strengthening the treatment of cholera patients, free and up to standards as well as respecting adequate protocols.

In WASH, particular attention should be given to:

- Post-distribution and post sensitization follow up
- Innovative cholera prevention sensitization approaches going beyond risk knowledge-based methodologies could be considered
- NFIs distributed should cover needs for a six-week period, corresponding to the average duration of an outbreak. They should also ensure adequate water storage capacity at household level to allow proper hygiene practices
- WASH facilities and services in cholera treatment centres must be up to standard, ensure continuous and adequate supply of chlorinated water, ensure continuous and adequate access to sanitation facilities as well as implementation of adequate hygiene and isolation practices.

In addition, other interventions could be considered aiming at reinforcing coordination, strengthening the EWS and surveillance system, autonomous supply systems (medical and water/sanitation), the rapid response performance of national institutions and quality case management, improving water/sanitation/hygiene conditions in key facilities/locations identified as recurrent sources of cholera outbreaks.

Coordination

Coordination of humanitarian response will be supported with the objective of ensuring respect of humanitarian principles and humanitarian space. With a resilience perspective, coordination should also promote strategic linking of relief, rehabilitation and development initiatives.

Coordination with national authorities and other stakeholders (such as development actors) is crucial to ensure sustainability of the interventions and appropriation. Participation in coordination mechanisms at central and departmental/local levels is essential.

DIPECHO/DRR/Resilience

The DIPECHO programme aims at providing most vulnerable populations and communities with sound technical solutions to improve their preparedness for natural hazards. With solutions and practices being adopted by local and national authorities, during the 2015-2016 Action Plan specific emphasis will be put on regional cooperation,

exchange of information, capacity building and training and advocacy at national and regional level.

In parallel, at local level focus will be maintained on the following actions:

- a) Local disaster management components: targeting local actors in disaster prone areas - early warning systems, mapping and data computerization, local capacity-building, training
- b) Institutional linkages: targeting institutions involved in disaster management/disaster risk reduction at regional, national and sub-national levels with special emphasis in municipalities - advocacy, facilitation of coordination, institutional strengthening
- c) Information, Education, Communication, targeting direct and indirect beneficiaries - awareness raising among the general public, education and dissemination
- d) Small-scale infrastructure and services, at community level: infrastructure support and mitigation works, reinforcing critical infrastructure, operation and maintenance systems; non-structural mitigation activities
- e) Stock-building of emergency and relief items: targeting the reinforcement of the response capacity of local actors and institutions in disaster-prone areas in view of contributing to ensuring an adequate response to natural disaster by strengthening the response capacity in the early hours and days of a disaster
- f) Livelihoods and economic assets protection: supporting direct and indirect beneficiaries to adapt prepare or protect their livelihoods against natural disasters

The DIPECHO Programme contributes to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA); proposed actions should look at supporting on-going implementation measures and/or contribute to the development of the post-2015 Framework for disaster risk reduction in the region.

Actions should focus on areas with vulnerabilities and high exposure to natural hazards but also where there are opportunities for sustainability and scaling up.

Integration of technical/scientific institutions/universities in project activities is encouraged.

Actions must demonstrate a clearly defined overall intervention strategy that will ultimately conclude with phase-out and/or handover, either to the target community/institution, the appropriate authorities, or longer-term funding instrument, so that sustainability and replicability is maximised.

Evidence should be provided that political commitment and institutional engagement allow the continuity or scaling up of the operations beyond the proposed project. Links should be made with existing mechanisms to access public funds for DRR beyond the duration of the proposed project.

Collaborative strategic formulation and planning between partners promoting complementarity is encouraged, and can take the form of consortia or alliances.

Possible intervention modalities

- National project (one operation, one agreement)
- Multi-country projects (same organization with several countries targeted and one agreement)
- Trans-border initiatives between Haiti and Dominican Republic (cross border river basin, shared hazards along the borders...)
- Regional projects (one operation with several countries targeted - including regional products - in one agreement)

Priorities in terms of geographical areas, hazards and sectors

The Caribbean region regularly experiences natural disasters, particularly the hurricane season that lasts for six months (i.e. from June to November), with tropical storms often taking the form of a hurricane. The region is also prone to floods, flash floods, tsunamis, landslides and mudslides. Some islands experience earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. The physical risk is combined with socioeconomic factors, such as high population density, fast demographic growth, inequality and great poverty; the combination of these factors affects vulnerable communities with limited coping capacity in the event of a disaster.

- 1) **Haiti, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Jamaica:** The intervention modality can be through a country project (one operation, one agreement, project dedicated only to one country), and/or through trans-border and/or bi-national initiatives between Haiti and Dominican Republic.

More detailed recommendation on DRR priorities will be available in the regional DIPECHO workshop report (Haiti) and in the Country Document (Dominican Republic Cuba, Jamaica). Some key points:

Haiti

Expected results should clearly be identified as a contribution to national priorities in terms of DP/DRR, in particular with reference to the DPC Action Plan 2014-2015. Projects tools and products should aim at being institutionalized by the SNGRD. In this sense it is recommended that the proposed operation is validated by the DPC both at central and department levels and to consider developing joint monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

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- Operations should consider in priority results that focus on strengthening the SIMEX (simulation and drill exercises), in particular at community level, capturing improvement and weaknesses of DP plans and response capacity. In this sector, there is a need to build national capacities to conduct SIMEX at central and local level. In that sense other recommendations provided such as improvement of the warning systems, distribution of transmission equipment, specific training, management of medical emergencies and mitigation works should be associated with needs identified by the SIMEX as well as articulated with other initiatives and in line with national strategies
 - Learning from the 2010 earthquake and seismic risk reduction in an urban context is a matter of concern and still a priority. Lessons need to be learnt and disseminated in an efficient manner in the country
 - Scaling-up opportunities should be at the centre of the project implementation plan
 - Small-scale mitigation works should be implemented with a coordinated strategic and technical approach. Some specific support can also be considered for this purpose
 - Supporting activities that facilitate or strengthen cooperation mechanisms between the key stakeholders are highly recommended
 - Coordination is key in multiparty actions: promoting joint efforts to reach a common result. Combined actions are required in the communication sector and for any activity that aims to contribute to building a Culture of Safety and Resilience (behavioural change oriented sensitization, International Day of Civil Protection, International day for Disaster Reduction)
 - Consortia of ECHO partners have been recognised by National Organisations and Institutions as a good practice, facilitating coordination and information management
 - Support to existing initiatives is encouraged. Proposed operations should be built on past experiences before promoting new innovating initiatives
 - As the EIC (Community Intervention Team) capitalisation process is underway, no new EIC will be put in place until the process ends

Dominican Republic

- Need for hazard, risk and vulnerability assessment

- Seismic vulnerability and climate change (infrastructure assessments)
- Baseline data development, supporting in particular the national information system
- Capacity strengthening
 - Integration of tools developed at local level
 - Strengthen local capacities
- Strengthen Early Warning System (local, national)
- Enhanced awareness raising and communication on DRR

Cuba (*Country document being finalised*)

- Seismic risk (reducing earthquake risk for the three south-eastern provinces)
- Early Warning System (local, national) and regional with the possibility to share experiences
 - Strengthen the hydro-meteorological Early Warning Systems in the watershed of the Zaza river
 - Combine flood risk reduction and Climate Change Adaptation measures in the Cienaga de Zapata watershed (largest wetland in the Caribbean)
- Urban context (urban disaster resilience approach)

Jamaica

- Enhance national coordination systems (beyond response structure)
- Improve early warning systems (local, national)
- Strengthen institutional capacity for technical support
- Improve systems for integration of disaster risk management
- Hazard mapping analysis and assessment (evidence based research for multi-hazards approach)

- 2) For **Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica**, countries affected by floods during December 2013, national or multi-country projects can be considered and the design should incorporate lessons from the impact of past events.

Saint Lucia

- Increase capacity for risk identification and assessment
- Geo-reference and land planning
- Capacity building at local and national levels (capacity strengthening for hazard, risk and vulnerability assessments, Baseline data development)
- Multi-hazard plans at local and national levels
- Improve Early Warning Systems (local, national)
- Strengthen local level systems (local disaster management)
- Information, education and communication

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

- Capacity strengthening
- Improve early warning systems (local, national)
- Need for hazard, risk and vulnerability assessments
- Focus on community disaster management
- Assess risk in schools and develop respective plans
- Need for drought mitigation measures
- Legal and institutional capacity strengthening

Dominica

- Strengthen early warning system with robust monitoring process for volcanic and seismic risks
- Explore further the Common Alert Protocol (CAP)
- Need for better data for comprehensive analysis and to inform policy and planning (integrating climate change adaptation and DRR approaches)

- Need to integrate disaster risk reduction in development strategy (promote interagency collaboration)
 - Increase information sharing and collaborative approach (think-tank initiative)
- 3) For all Caribbean countries, including those already listed, **multi-country projects** (same organization with several countries targeted and one agreement) can be considered if country priorities and regional interest are respected.

Documents are available at:

www.dipecholac.net/contenido/85-documentos-pais.html

- **Barbados:** Country Document for Disaster Risk Reduction (Final draft)
 - **Cuba:** (*being drafted*)
 - **Dominica** (*version 1*): Disaster Risk Reduction Profile
 - **Dominican Republic** (*version 3*): Avances y desafíos de la gestión del riesgo de desastres en la República Dominicana
 - **Grenada:** (*being drafted*)
 - **Guyana:** Progress and challenges in Disaster Risk Management (final draft)
 - **Jamaica** (*version 2 being finalised*): Country Document on Disaster Risk Reduction
 - **Saint Lucia** (*version 2*): Disaster Risk Reduction-Country profile
 - **St Vincent and the Grenadines.** (*being finalised*)
 - **Suriname:** (*being drafted*)
 - **Trinidad & Tobago:** (*being drafted*)
- 4) **Regional projects** are another implementation modality open to partners (one operation, one agreement with several countries targeted, responding to a regional interest and/or priority).

Regional projects go beyond the mere sum of national projects and should have an outreach component. They should be defined taking into consideration existing regional or global initiatives and involving national stakeholders in identification and formulation. Regional actions are also expected to support articulation with local and national ones, promoting exchanges of experiences and coordination.

Regional contributions are not limited to regional projects, but can be delivered through a result, a product, an activity of a local project that responds to a regional interest in a specific sector.

Based on past regional consultation processes, some priorities to identify initiatives of added value for the region and/or for a group of countries have been recommended for future actions: (detailed workshop report available at: <http://www.dipecholac.net/docs/files/788-national-and-regional-drr-opportunities.docx>)

Some of these regional recommendations:

The usefulness of the Country Documents as a national process to identify priorities (having an “electronic” version should be explored) as well as any other contributions to strengthening coordination mechanisms.

Need to strengthen early warning systems at community, national and regional levels (e.g. sharing experiences, capitalization of tools, considering hazard monitoring, warning protocols, communications systems, and drill/simulation practices).

Sharing lessons learnt and experiences on seismic risk with special focus on urban settlements (urban risk) is a matter of concern for the region.

Need to develop cost analysis, evidenced based research, as well as to capture DRR integrated engagements in development plans, education sectors, etc.

Effective communication tools and methods on DRR should be measured, capitalized and disseminated at regional level

Projects should evaluate the possibility to contribute to the regional initiatives for Disaster Risk Reduction (e.g. CDM regional event)

Projects should contribute to strengthening coordination mechanisms facilitating the development of DRR platforms, updating of country documents, promotion of exchange of experiences.

Bi-national projects incorporating common initiatives should be explored (i.e. in Hispaniola).

Regional actions should consider in priority the consolidation of experiences developed in the region during the past years, coupled with a robust scaling up and communication strategy.

Additional information at the following link:

- **Region:** Relevant tools and experiences for the region:
- **www.dipecholac.net**

Central America

- In case funding is allocated and when external support is required for larger disasters as well as for a smaller response for population groups whose emergency needs are not covered through the local/national response, focus should be on the **population most in need and most vulnerable to external shocks**, including population and areas affected by high levels of organized violence and requiring specific attention.
- To the extent possible, multi-sectoral and multilevel approaches will be promoted when targeting priority areas combining high levels of food insecurity, exposure and recurrence of natural disasters, epidemics and organized violence. Specific attention will be given to promoting the integration of disaster risk reduction in the response as well as a focus on building more resilient livelihoods.
- Interventions must be based on humanitarian principles, using as much as possible the technical expertise of international humanitarian actors able to implement actions in highly insecure contexts to reach the population most in need. The aim is to allow adequate assistance to the local population, responding to their specific needs, contributing to building their resilience.
- The impact of organized violence is an element of increased vulnerability. Proposed operations should take into account the integration of this aspect in their needs analysis and response, allowing a more comprehensive approach when strengthening capacities (e.g. ensure safe and equal access to assistance for the population, monitor humanitarian access, evacuation plans ensuring safety of the population, etc.). Mainstreaming of protection may be needed.
- The impact of organized violence has also significant consequences for the work of humanitarian actors in the region as regards security. ECHO will pay particular attention to ensuring safe and secure provision of aid. The selection of staff to work in such environments will be particularly important and constant monitoring of threats is needed. Together with a proper management of security threats, specific acceptance and perception monitoring measures will be essential for the implementation of operations in areas affected by organized violence. Sufficient attention, resources and time is needed to implement these measures and to ensure full understanding of, and full adherence to, humanitarian principles. These conditions should be met to improve security in the implementation of the operations. Regular monitoring of compliance to these humanitarian principles by the field teams is expected. These issues will be considered in project appraisal.
- Where relevant and possible, actions funded in Central America could contribute to an evidence-based advocacy strategy targeting development stakeholders and decision makers for replication and scaling up. Support to coordination activities might also be foreseen to strengthen capacities in this area.