

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)

POLICY SUPPORT

The activities proposed hereafter are still subject to the adoption of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2015/01000

Amount: EUR 2 450 000

1. CONTEXT

In order to improve the coherence, quality, effectiveness and overall impact of the European Union's funding for humanitarian aid, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) is developing a range of policy products with the aim of supporting overall effectiveness. In order to ensure the highest quality for policy products, the provision of relevant expertise in the areas concerned, and reinforced networking between humanitarian Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and ECHO is required.

2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

The increasing scale of humanitarian needs calls for the most effective use of the limited resources available. The diversity of actors and approaches requires clear guidance regarding best approaches to meet the needs of the beneficiaries, taking into account an ever more complicated context.

The need for policies and policy products to improve coherence, quality and efficiency applies both directly to ECHO funding, and, more broadly, to global approaches to humanitarian funding. This is true for sector policy (such as WASH, Health, Food, Nutrition, Shelter etc.), horizontal policy areas (such as Gender, Evidence Based Needs Assessment and other current and future priorities), as well as overall humanitarian principles (such as International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and civil-military coordination).

The diverse and wide-ranging discussions of humanitarian challenges in the run-up to the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 will reinforce the need for the humanitarian community to pool expertise with a sense of vision for the future.

Therefore, ECHO needs to draw upon specific expertise from dedicated centres of excellence, as well as informed best practice in the on-going practice of humanitarian aid delivery by its partners.

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 which strengthen partnership, coherence and coordination.

Considering the above, ECHO is proposing the financing of specific humanitarian expertise and networks to contribute to the quality and coherence of policy initiatives in a number of focused sectors 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 includes 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, and outreach. Other and additional priorities could be defined on the basis of new challenges in the field of humanitarian aid, disaster management and civil protection.

Those interventions will be implemented through grant agreements and/or service contracts, with in particular the renewal of the current service contract providing specific expertise and an administrative arrangement with the JRC to improve and expand products supporting Evidence Based Assessment.

2) Reinforce networking between humanitarian non-governmental organisations

The broad application foreseen for 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. Furthermore, such reinforced information and networking structures are important both for pursuing issues related to the 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, to reinforce networking and strengthening the collective influence of NGOs in order to improve implementation of humanitarian aid projects, and to raise awareness of and engagement with the EU Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, its Action Plan and any potential follow-up

4. COORDINATION

Policy development processes build on experiences and lessons learned from actions funded under geographical or Enhanced Response Capacity HIPs.