

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)

SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

AMOUNT: EUR 26 152 483.83

0. MAJOR CHANGES SINCE PREVIOUS VERSION OF THE HIP

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is experiencing considerably less rainfall this year than in average, a situation related to the El Niño phenomenon. The Government estimates that up to 3 million people are affected, most of them living in the Highlands. The number of seriously affected people, suffering from severe water scarcity and food shortages due to crop failure may be estimated at between 300,000 and 400,000 (the number could be higher because data from some provinces, e.g. the Western Province, is scarce). Even if rainfall would normalise soon and people could resume planting, they would still have to wait some 6 months to be able to harvest the next crop. El Niño is predicted to peak in the first three months of 2016, thus the situation could deteriorate substantially.

An amount of EUR 652 483.83 has been added to this HIP to build up preparedness for a scenario in which the effects of drought are likely to intensify in the coming months, to improve the resilience of people affected by drought in PNG and to improve farmers' preparedness to restart agricultural activities once the rains resume.

Changes as per 3 November

In the **Philippines**, fighting between the army and non-state armed groups¹ has displaced over 495,000 people since 2012. The 2013 MNLF siege in Zamboanga displaced more than 118,800 people, the 2015 offensive against BIFF in Maguindanao displaced more than 132,000 and persisting fighting entails continuous displacement in different parts of Mindanao. Livelihoods have been destroyed as a result of conflict and displacement, in particular fishing for the indigenous Badjaos in Zamboanga and the farms and livestock in Maguindanao. While it is hoped that the peace process and the Bangsamoro Basic Law may bring sustained peace in the long term, for the moment the conflict remains active. Its humanitarian consequences have received virtually no international attention, making Mindanao a much forgotten crisis. The Government's response to conflict-induced displacements has been much lower than to natural disaster-induced displacements².

Because the humanitarian crisis in Mindanao is considered a forgotten crisis, ECHO will explore opportunities for advocacy, to increase the visibility of the crisis and attract international attention to the humanitarian needs it generates. ECHO partners are encouraged to contribute to this initiative, when relevant and appropriate.

ECHO's own assessment and partners' assessments indicate that the priority needs are food and livelihood support, protection, emergency shelter and basic services for water, sanitation,

¹ Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF); Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF); Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

² Statement of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Chaloka Beyani, on the conclusion of his official visit to the Philippines 21-23 July 2015.

health and education. To address the needs of the most vulnerable people affected by conflict in Mindanao, an amount of EUR 1,500,000 has been added to this HIP.

Myanmar experienced its worst floods in living memory between June and October, compounded by Cyclone Komen at the end of July. They affected up to 9.5 million people.

In a country where more than three quarters of the population rely on agriculture and fisheries for a living, the main impact of these massive floods is on livelihoods: more than half a million hectares of fields (89% of which paddy fields) have been damaged, 250,000 livestock have been killed, 30,000 hectares of fish and shrimp ponds have been damaged, food stocks, seeds and tools were lost. This endangers the next agricultural season and reduces opportunities for casual labour for the most vulnerable, among which many women-headed households. Only 9% of the targeted affected population has so far received livelihoods assistance. Food security in the next months is a real concern.

More than 10,000 people remain displaced and are waiting to be relocated, especially in Chin State and Sagaing Region. In Rakhine State, the floods and cyclone destroyed shelters in camps housing 130,000 Rohingya IDPs.

Restoration of access to clean water and sanitation remains urgent for 170,000 people, to avoid major problems during the dry season.

Affected people are already observed selling their remaining productive assets. Increased migratory pressure is likely to be observed, also fuelling the regional human smuggling/trafficking in the region, by sea or land.

Ongoing fighting in Kachin and Shan States are creating new IDPs. Since 6 October, some 3,000 people have been displaced in Central Shan.

The UN Flood Response Plan targeting 582,000 very vulnerable people until the end of 2015 and the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan, of which it is part, remain considerably underfunded.

Two allocations of EUR 1,000,000 and EUR 2,700,000 were approved, respectively on 6 August and 13 October. A new allocation of EUR 2,300,000 is necessary to further support the response to the floods and to make sure that ongoing actions targeting conflict and violence affected populations do not suffer pipeline breaks.

Changes as per 13 October

Myanmar/Burma experienced relentless torrential rains since the end of June 2015, associated with the Southwest Monsoon system and the impact of Cyclone Komen, which made landfall in Rakhine State and Bangladesh on 30 July. By the end of August, 1.6 million people had been displaced and millions more affected to different degrees (food and transportation prices increase, loss of stocks and livelihood, lack of access to social services, to clean water ...) in twelve of the fourteen States and Regions of the Union. Some 489,000 houses have been damaged or destroyed. The significant damage to paddy fields at the onset of the planting season and the loss of stored grains will have a long-lasting impact on food security and malnutrition rates. In flooded areas, drinking water ponds and wells were contaminated.

In Rakhine State, this disaster has worsened an already dire situation in the Rohingya IDP camps, where many of the dilapidated long-houses, which were erected in 2012-13 as a temporary solution, collapsed or were badly damaged. The extent of loss of documentation due

to flooding is likely to further complicate Muslims' status. Both Rakhine and Muslim communities in central and northern Rakhine State were also heavily affected and paid a heavy toll in terms of houses fully destroyed.

Other regions, such as Chin State and Ayeyarwaddy, Magway and Sagaing Regions, have been severely affected. In Chin State, major landslides have seriously disrupted transport and have delayed access to affected areas and populations. Many low-lying areas of the Ayeyarwaddy Delta, including farmland, have been flooded, to an extent that appears unprecedented in human memory.

In Kachin State, bamboo shelters built in 2012 to temporarily accommodate the some 100 000 people displaced by the conflict which flared up again in 2011 are increasingly inadequate and ill adapted to the cold winter temperatures. Rehabilitation and winterization appear necessary ahead of the coming winter.

Negotiations regarding a Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement have been progressing and it has been signed on 15 October by a number of ethnic armed groups. However, the security situation is not expected to drastically improve in the short to medium term. In the Kokang Self-Administered Zone (SAZ) where fighting in early 2015 had pushed half of the population to flee, mainly to neighbouring China, returns have taken place and humanitarian access is slowly improving.

An allocation of EUR 1,000,000 was approved on 6 August to cover the most urgent flood-related needs. A new allocation of EUR 2,700,000 is necessary to further support the response to the floods, especially in Rakhine and Chin States and in the Ayeyarwaddy, Sagaing and Magway Regions with a focus on shelter, water and sanitation, and malnutrition stemming from the loss of crops. Part of this amount will also be dedicated to rehabilitate and winterize shelters for the most vulnerable displaced populations in Kachin, and to cater for the needs of returnees in Kokang.

Changes as per 6 August

Myanmar/Burma experienced relentless torrential rains since the end of June 2015, associated with the Southwest Monsoon system. By the end of July 156,000 people had been directly affected in Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan and, to a lesser extent, Kayin and Chin States. Thousands were displaced and had lost crops and other livelihood assets, together with their shelter, drinking water ponds and wells were contaminated and many bridges and roads were flooded or destroyed. Compounding this situation, Tropical Cyclone Komen made landfall in Rakhine State and Bangladesh on 30 July, entailing more heavy rainfall, severe winds and storm surge, resulting in further flooding and landslides, damaging crops, homes, roads and other structures in several regions; 33 848 people were evacuated. In the Rohingya IDP camps many of the long-houses collapsed or were badly damaged. As per the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, 524,895 acres of farmland have been inundated throughout the country. The loss of stored grains and life-stock will disrupt the planting season and impact on long-term food security. On 31 July the President's Office declared a state of emergency in four regions: Chin, Magway, Sagaing and Rakhine and shortly after the government sought international humanitarian assistance. An allocation of EUR 1 000 000 is required to cover the most urgent needs.

1. CONTEXT

This HIP covers the response to natural and man-made disasters as well as disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and resilience activities in South East Asia and the Pacific.

For the response to natural and man-made disasters, this HIP focuses largely on Myanmar/Burma and Thailand with the potential for interventions in response to new disasters also in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea and Fiji. These countries have been included because of their high exposure and vulnerability to natural disasters³. As regards disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and resilience, the focus will be on specific actions in Vanuatu as well as support to regional initiatives in the Pacific and South East Asia, complementing the ongoing DIPECHO HIP for South East Asia 2014-2015.

Man-made disasters

Man-made disasters with humanitarian consequences are found in Myanmar/Burma and to a lesser extent in the Philippines (Mindanao).

Myanmar/Burma's population is estimated at circa 53 million people⁴, of which 40% are ethnic minorities. The country ranks 150 of 187 in the 2014 UNDP Human Development Index⁵. ECHO's Integrated Analysis Framework 2014-2015 identified extreme humanitarian needs. Since the 2011 elections, the Government has made progress particularly in the area of democratization and peace building. However, humanitarian needs have increased with the most urgent stemming from displacement following inter-communal violence in Rakhine State since June 2012 and renewed fighting in Kachin and northern Shan States since 2011. In Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan States a total of 255,000 IDPs live in camps or with host families⁶. The spill-over of inter-communal violence to other parts of the country in 2013 and 2014 is another destabilisation factor, while maritime migration movements from Rakhine State to other countries in the region are an additional concern. UNHCR estimates that 86 000 people, mostly Rohingya, have left since communal violence erupted in June 2012. Some of them are now housed in detention centres in Thailand and receive support from ECHO⁷. In Bangladesh, there are at least 250,000 Rohingya. Only 24,000 of them are recognised refugees and live in official camps. The vast majority of Rohingya live in makeshift camps or within local communities.

The vulnerability of the population affected by the crises in Rakhine and Kachin States is assessed to be very high. Since 2004, Myanmar/Burma has consistently been on the ECHO Forgotten Crises Assessment Index.

Following decades of civil war on the Eastern border, **Thailand** still hosts 119 000 Myanmar/Burma refugees/displaced persons in nine camps. Further to government ceasefire agreements with ethnic armed groups on the Eastern border (and pending the outcome of negotiations for a nationwide ceasefire), needs in the Southeast are more development-oriented than humanitarian. Durable solutions are needed after 30 years of the existence of camps. Organised return on a voluntary basis, in line with international principles, is not yet on the

³ Ranking in ECHO's 2014 Global Vulnerability and Crisis Assessment (GVCA): Myanmar/Burma- 3, Thailand – 2, Cambodia - 2, Lao PDR - 2, Vietnam - 2, Philippines - 2, Indonesia - 2, Democratic People's Republic of Korea - 1, Mongolia - 2, Papua New Guinea - 2 and Fiji - 2.

⁴ <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL/countries/MM>

⁵ UNDP, Human Development Report 2014; Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience.

⁶ UNHCR, OCHA, CCCM, May 2014.

⁷ Commission's Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection – ECHO.

horizon but this might change following a registration exercise in the camps in the second semester 2014. Appropriate conditions have yet to be created in Myanmar/Burma to receive a possible influx of returnees.

In the **Philippines**, fighting between the army and insurgent groups in Mindanao has fluctuated in terms of intensity since independence. The peace process initiated by President Aquino is perceived as a successful landmark. Although there are positive signs that it may result in sustained peace in Mindanao, the process has shortcomings. For example, splinter groups have emerged from the second major insurgent group Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). Eruption of violence, with potential humanitarian impact remains a possibility (as witnessed in September 2013 in Zamboanga city).

Natural disasters

South East Asia features among the most disaster affected regions in the world, in terms of scale, recurrence and severity of disasters⁸. It is also among those most at risk, given the social and economic dimensions of vulnerabilities, the hazard profiles as well as environmental and climate change considerations. While tropical cyclones and floods are the most frequent disasters, earthquakes, droughts, cold waves, volcanic eruptions and epidemics also occur. Future impact of climate change is a matter of concern (especially regarding the likely increase of temperature in the whole region and particular likelihood of increased droughts in East Asia).

The **Pacific** region is also exposed to natural hazards, though their overall impact is less due to lower population numbers (9.2 million inhabitants in total). Large-scale natural disasters of significant humanitarian impact have been frequent in the past decade (i.e. the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004, Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar/Burma in 2008, Japan earthquake/tsunami in 2011, Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013), which has contributed to trigger further interest and investment in disaster risk reduction policies in the region.

Vulnerability profiles are evolving, with increased urban migration and erosion of traditional coping mechanisms, including increased risks of pandemics. Regarding climate change, weather patterns are worrying, with increasingly erratic meteorological cycles and higher disaster impact from hydro-meteorological events. InfoRM⁹ identifies countries at high risk of humanitarian crisis and more likely to require international assistance. It is based on three dimensions of risk: hazards and exposure, vulnerability and lack of coping capacity. This composite index provides a useful, simplified understanding of country-based risk realities. **Myanmar/Burma presents the highest (6.9) InfoRM ranking for North and South-East Asia**¹⁰. Pre-disaster risk-management policies and measures and national/local capacity to respond to rapid on-set disasters are essential elements in analyzing risk.

Disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and resilience

⁸ According to recent launch of GAR report 2013 by UNISDR, the impact of disasters over the past 12 years (2000-2012) caused USD 1.7 trillion in damage; 2.9 billion people affected and killed 1.2 million people globally. The report highlighted Tropical Storm Bopha in the Philippines among the top 10 natural disasters in 2012.

⁹ European Commission, JRC Scientific and Policy Reports -Index for Risk Management- InfoRM 2014

¹⁰ *InfoRM original data, sourced from the online database. Available: <http://inform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>, UNOCHA.*

Due to their exposure, almost all South East Asian and Pacific countries are taking concrete action to improve preparedness and reduce risk. This involves adopting legal frameworks and creating central disaster management bodies. However, at local level, the implementation on the national disaster laws is often insufficient and the most vulnerable **populations often remain ill-prepared to cope with disasters**. In many cases, preparedness efforts are not inclusive enough of the different groups of population to significantly increase resilience. ASEAN was the first regional body to adopt a legally binding document, the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), which not only reinforces the Hyogo Framework for Action at regional level, but also commits the 10 ASEAN Member States to implement DRR at national level.

2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- 1) Affected people/ potential beneficiaries:

Man-made disasters

In **Myanmar/Burma's Rakhine State**, the protracted and acute humanitarian consequences of what is fundamentally a human rights crisis, have continued to worsen since communal violence erupted in June 2012. Dependence on humanitarian aid is extremely high due to restrictions on movement and lack of access to livelihoods and social rights. Violent attacks against international aid agencies in Sittwe in March 2014 led to the temporary suspension of most humanitarian operations. The gap in health service coverage is particularly severe and life-saving hospital referrals are curtailed. People affected by violence and segregation are the main target of ECHO's assistance. ECHO aims at assisting at least 400 000 people in the townships of Maungdaw, Buthidaung, Rathedaung, Sittwe and other affected areas.

Since June 2011, fighting between the **Kachin** Independence Army and Myanmar/Burma Government forces has displaced close to 120 000 people. Some 98 000 internally displaced people are now living in camps and 20 000 stay with host families in Government and Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCA) where the total number of IDPs is estimated at 53 000¹¹. While access to Government-Controlled Areas (GCA) is regular, assistance to IDPs in NGCA is limited to times when humanitarian cross-line missions are granted access, gradually improving since September 2013¹². In Kachin State, 118 000 people displaced by the internal conflict in GCA and NGCA will be targeted. In Shan State, people affected by spill-over from the conflict will also be targeted. Union funding will remain flexible in order to support further displaced populations if necessary.

In **Thailand**, despite a large scale resettlement operation to third countries since 2005 (still ongoing; 91 054 people resettled as of 30 June 2014), a caseload of 119 000 people (of whom 42 000 unregistered¹³) from Myanmar/Burma remain in nine temporary settlements along the border. Although there have been some spontaneous returns, the total number is not significant. Nevertheless, there has been a decrease in camp population, due to illegal migration into Thailand and third country resettlement. As one of the longest-lasting refugee caseloads in the world, durable solutions must be found, including organized voluntary repatriation, integration

¹¹ Source: UNHCR, OCHA, CCCM, May 2014

¹² WFP Myanmar/Burma Mid-Project Update, July 2014

¹³ Source: UNHCR data as of 31 May 2014. <http://data.unhcr.org/thailand/regional.php>

in Thailand and resettlement in third countries. Actions to decrease dependence and facilitate potential return/integration have been supported (vocational training, agricultural activities). Voluntary and organized return to Myanmar/Burma seems only possible if/when a tri-partite agreement has been signed between the two countries concerned and UNHCR. Formal integration into Thailand remains a remote possibility. Continued international support to the camps is likely to be required at least for one additional year. ECHO aims at targeting approximately 31 000 people in the most vulnerable camps. This strategy may be modified according to the development support to be provided under DEVCO¹⁴'s *Aid to Uprooted People* (AUP) programme.

In the **Philippines**, in case of considerable humanitarian needs triggered by intensification of armed conflict in Mindanao during the implementation time-frame of this HIP, ECHO could adapt it to respond to humanitarian needs.

Natural disasters

All the countries mentioned under section 1 are disaster prone¹⁵. The number of disasters, their location, magnitude, and humanitarian impact (affected people/potential beneficiaries) in 2015 are unpredictable. ECHO could adapt this HIP and increase its total amount in order to respond to natural disasters which may happen in the region in 2015/2016 (with previous and due consideration to: a) the humanitarian impact and needs b) the national/local capacities to respond and c) the international humanitarian response).

For the Pacific region, which sees a recurrence of natural disasters but with a large geographical dispersion of the population, the potential ECHO response to natural disasters could be considered as follows (after due consideration of the three criteria mentioned above):

- For a total affected population between 10 000 and 100 000 people, potential use of the instruments in the 2015 Emergency Toolbox HIP¹⁶.
- For a total affected population above 100 000 people, a potential increase of the total amount of this HIP.¹⁷

Disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction, resilience

In March 2015, the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will launch the successor to the Hyogo Framework for Action. The expected ten-year blueprint will require full support from all stakeholders (“*DRR is Everyone’s Business*” UN slogan), including the donor community. The new framework will build on the existing commitments, and sustain international initiatives such as the *Safe Schools and Hospitals* campaigns, as well as *Making Cities Resilient*. ECHO will continue contributing to these efforts, building on previous

¹⁴ Commission's Directorate General for Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid

¹⁵ Nine of these countries are classified as at 'very high risk' according to the UN World Risk Index 2013, ranking natural disaster risk. <http://www.ehs.unu.edu/file/get/11644.pdf>, page 64.

¹⁶ Based on disasters statistics from EMDAT database, likelihood is higher in PNG, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu than in other Pacific countries.

¹⁷ Based on disasters statistics from EMDAT database, such disaster could only happen in PNG and Fiji and unlikely in other Pacific countries.

successful partnerships (e.g. Safe Hospitals). Initiatives and networks seeking to promote greater multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships will also be encouraged.

ECHO will address disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and resilience building needs in the Pacific and South-East Asia under this HIP. The DIPECHO programme will focus on local communities in selected disaster prone areas and on institutions involved in disaster risk reduction/disaster management at regional/country level. Priority will be given: a) to consolidate achievements made in Vanuatu during previous DIPECHO programmes and b) to regional actions in the Pacific and South East Asia region. Additional information is to be found in the technical annex.

2) Description of the most acute humanitarian needs

Myanmar/Burma

Rakhine State: 137 000 displaced people living in camps throughout the state and dependent on humanitarian assistance. **Protection and psychosocial activities for all gender and age groups, shelter, health care, food assistance, non-food items (NFI), water and sanitation, food security and livelihood (including cooking fuel) and nutrition are amongst the most acute needs.** Camp management coordination is also needed. Some communities are "enclaved" in Aung Min Gaslar Ward in Sittwe town since June 2012. They are in need of support to mitigate the loss of their livelihoods. In northern Rakhine State child malnutrition levels exceed emergency thresholds, compounded by lack of access to health care. Prevalence of under-5 children suffering from acute malnutrition is 20- 25%. High rates of chronic malnutrition (50-60%) in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships¹⁸ indicate a structural problem. Both in northern Rakhine State and in IDP camps, lack of access to basic health care and referrals is a direct threat for the lives of pregnant women, infants and chronically ill patients. Early recovery interventions and quick impact initiatives are needed to defuse tensions, promote dialogue and improve perception of international assistance. Restoring/improving economic dynamics involving participation of both communities would benefit both groups. **Projects promoting peaceful co-existence and inter-community dialogue platforms are needed.**

Kachin State: For the 118 000 IDPs in temporary camps and host communities throughout Kachin and northern Shan States, unaddressed acute needs exist with regards to **food, shelter, non-food items (NFIs), health care, camp management, livelihood support and protection, notably in the areas outside government control.** Due to presence of numerous anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance, mine awareness is required. **Needs of host families** also have to be considered. Due to inaccessible terrain and irregular government authorisations, particularly for INGOs, access is still a major constraint challenging the relief response.

Other humanitarian needs: In the complex operational context of Myanmar/Burma, efficient **coordination** is needed in view of various on-going humanitarian situations, as well as enhanced coordination between humanitarian and development systems.

¹⁸ Maungdaw Buthidaung Townships , ACF Nutrition Surveys, Nov. 2013 – Dec. 2013

Thailand

Humanitarian needs of the displaced population from Myanmar/Burma relate to **food assistance, shelter, cooking fuel and supply of basic services (water, sanitation, health and education)**. Some emergency assistance to repatriation and resettlement in Myanmar/Burma may be considered, should the situation require it.

3. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

1) National / local response and involvement

In **Myanmar/Burma** the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is the lead Ministry in charge of providing relief assistance to affected communities, while Ministry of Border Affairs is de facto in charge of regulating assistance in border areas. In Rakhine State, the "Emergency Coordination Centre", has been reactivated in 2014. Its aim is to coordinate the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The Centre is led by the State Minister for Border Affairs and includes Rakhine "elders". The Government has recognised that it needs the assistance of international humanitarian actors to cope with the situation in Rakhine State. A Rakhine Action Plan, aiming at rolling out a long-term development plan for the state is being prepared by the Government. ECHO will as far as possible advocate for the respect of international norms regarding the resettlement of IDPs as well as for the inclusion of disaster risk reduction and preparedness activities as resilience building measures. The Government has also initiated a verification process of the Rohingya population, which, under very tight conditions, could allow part of them to recover some citizenship rights.

In **Thailand**, the Government is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention (neither is Myanmar/Burma). The Ministry of Interior controls the day-to-day running of the camps in collaboration with refugee and camp committees. Refugees are not allowed to move freely outside the camps. Advocacy has resulted in more flexibility for non-formal and vocational education, livelihood activities and capacity building.

Despite Thailand's regular exposure to seasonal floods, the overall capacity to cope with disasters is good. The disaster management and response system is based on the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Act (2007). The overall responsibility for disaster risk management and response lies with the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, reporting to the Ministry of Interior. The National Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Plan 2010-2014 aims at strengthening Thailand's disaster management capacity further.

2) International Humanitarian Response

In **Myanmar/Burma** more than 60 ECHO partners are present. In 2014, UN and partners appealed for USD 192 million to respond to the humanitarian needs. The 2014 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) focuses on Rakhine and Kachin States. Funding is required to assist 421,000 people (310,000 people in Rakhine and 111,000 in Kachin and northern Shan States). As of 31 July 2014, the SRP is 45% funded. USD 40 million has been contributed outside the SRP. Total funding provided by donors for humanitarian actions in Myanmar/Burma in 2014 is USD 126 million. Contributions outside the SRP include US\$ 22.8 million to national

programmes of UNHCR and WFP, some of which may be allocated to needs described in the SRP.¹⁹

In **Thailand**, the international level of funding going to assist refugees is around EUR 50 million per year²⁰.

3) Constraints and ECHO response capacity

In **Myanmar/Burma**, access constraint is characteristic for many aid projects with lengthy procedures to obtain visas, travel authorisations and Memorandum of Understanding. Security concerns and growing anti-UN/INGO sentiment (i.e. in Rakhine State) are also hindering effective implementation. In Rakhine State, the March 2014 attacks on the premises of international aid organisations in Sittwe and related perception of impunity have had a negative impact on humanitarian operations, with significant difficulties in restarting some activities. In Kachin, despite more frequent authorizations to deliver relief in non-government controlled areas, access remains insufficient for international humanitarian staff. In spite of these challenges, most aid projects can be monitored by ECHO. Coordination aiming at identifying synergies and maximizing impact remains a challenge. While some improvements have been seen in the Camp Management²¹ and the WASH²² Clusters, the coordination in the health sector as well as coordination between humanitarian and development activities remain to be improved. ECHO is committed to supporting coordination mechanisms. Support to systemic linkage between humanitarian and development actions may also be envisaged to support resilience building efforts.

In **Thailand**, challenges relate to upholding humanitarian principles in the camps and finding durable solutions after close to 30 years of encampment.

Envisaged ECHO response and expected results of humanitarian aid interventions.

In 2015, ECHO assistance to actions in Myanmar/Burma and for the displaced population along the Thai-Myanmar/Burma border will be EUR 15 000 000. This HIP also includes DIPECHO/DRR and resilience actions in Vanuatu and regional actions in the Pacific and SEA (see more details below) for EUR 3 000 000. The HIP may be adapted in case of additional ECHO engagement in humanitarian responses to natural disasters and/or to other unexpected events in the region in 2015/16.

Myanmar/Burma

ECHO's country strategy aims at addressing acute humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable people affected by violence, conflict and natural disasters. **ECHO will systematically identify and act on resilience opportunities**²³, including livelihood support for the most vulnerable

¹⁹ Myanmar/Burma: Humanitarian Funding Update, OCHA, 31 July 2014

²⁰ Figure based on ECHO estimations. However, OCHA Financial Tracking Service reports only USD 41 million as total humanitarian funding in Thailand in 2013, the main three donors being USA, Sweden and the European Commission.

²¹ Shelter, Non-Food Items and Camp Coordination-Camp Management Cluster

²² Water, sanitation and hygiene

²³ ECHO guidance Note on Resilience

(considering that movement restrictions prevent their access to most livelihood opportunities), mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in projects, and working closely with the EU Delegation in Myanmar/Burma to create synergies between EU-funded humanitarian aid and development projects, promoting the LRRD approach. Protection of civilians, whether victims of conflicts or violence, discrimination or human rights violations, remains a serious concern for ECHO. A **protection-sensitive approach** is essential. Integrating vulnerabilities into program design and targeting of assistance is crucial to mitigate individuals' risks and the risk of further enticing animosity between different groups. This must be based on a proper analysis and mapping of threats to different gender, age and diversity groups by location and type of displacement. ECHO will continue to advocate for the application and respect of humanitarian principles and improved access to all vulnerable civilians with acute humanitarian needs. ECHO supports timely emergency response capacity in the case of crisis; stock replenishment can be considered. The following list of sectors is not exhaustive and may be adapted according to needs:

Northern Rakhine State: Protection, food assistance, livelihood support, nutrition activities, health services, non-food items and inter-community tension mitigation/prevention

Rakhine State areas affected by communal violence: food assistance, nutrition activities, livelihood support (including cooking fuel), temporary basic health care, WASH, non-food items, camp management, protection, inter-community tension mitigation and prevention, psychosocial activities. Early recovery activities can be considered in the framework of the Humanitarian Country Team conflict mitigation strategy

Kachin and Shan States conflict-affected areas: climate-adapted shelter materials, camp/settlement management, non-food items, WASH in camps and settlements, food assistance, livelihood support, health services, protection and mine awareness in camps

Eastern border areas: in case of return from Thailand to places of origin, livelihood support, temporary shelters and basic health services, water, sanitation

Cross-cutting sectors highly recommended to be considered: mainstreaming disaster preparedness and risk reduction, specific needs of different gender/age groups.

Thailand

ECHO assistance to the displaced population in the camps will **target the most vulnerable population and camps**, with a priority on: a) the health sector and b) food assistance through the most appropriate transfer modality. ECHO assistance will be complementary to funding provided under DEVCO's AUP Budget Line. **Advocacy for durable solutions**, such as voluntary repatriation to Myanmar/Burma and integration in Thailand will continue.

DIPECHO, disaster risk reduction and resilience in the Pacific and South East Asia

In addition to the above mentioned humanitarian response in Myanmar/Burma and Thailand, the **current HIP will fund DIPECHO actions and international DRR/Resilience campaigns in**

the Pacific/South East Asia (see technical annex with operational recommendations for ECHO partners)²⁴. This HIP will support:

- The exit DRR strategy in Vanuatu, building on the success of previous DIPECHO actions.
- Regional initiatives with a specific focus covering the Pacific and South East Asia. Other activities that may be considered are:
 - a) **International DRR Campaigns:** Safe Schools and Hospitals and the Making Cities Resilient Campaign;
 - b) **Cross-cutting issues and other major challenges** for the effective implementation of DRR at different levels. This may include but is not limited to the following: Gender in DRR, budgeting and financing DRR (i.e. dedicated budget and funding mechanisms); flood and drought risk management (including El Niño), and safe shelter;
 - c) Targeted interventions promoting **further integration of DRR with the post 2015** commitments in regional DRR/DRM priorities, as supporting the roll-out of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) work programme Phase 2 and the Pacific Regional Framework for Action for Disaster Risk Reduction. Bridging the gap between DRR and Climate Change Adaptation policy and practice is considered a priority.

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

4. LRRD, COORDINATION AND TRANSITION

1) *Other ECHO interventions*

The DREF, the Small Scale Disaster Response HIP and/or the Epidemics HIP may complement this HIP for small scale humanitarian actions. In Myanmar/Burma the 2014/15 DIPECHO Action Plan will run in parallel to this HIP. The 2013 and 2014 Children of Peace HIPs supports education activities in Kachin and Rakhine States.

2) *Other services/donors availability (such as for LRRD and transition)*

Total humanitarian funding for Myanmar/Burma in 2013 was US\$ 204.8 million²⁵, the main three donors being USA (15%), Japan (15%) and the European Commission (14%). In Myanmar/Burma and Thailand ECHO seeks complementarity with other donors and coordinates

²⁴ Please note that needs and priorities identified for South East Asia regarding DIPECHO, resilience building and disaster risk reduction are addressed by a separate HIP: DIPECHO South East Asia Humanitarian Implementation Plan 2014-15 (EUR11 000 000). Refer to: http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/funding/decisions/2014/HIPs/dipecho_sea_en.pdf

²⁵ Source: FTS, OCHA.

with other Commission services to increase the possibility to transfer some more development oriented activities to long term funding. The Myanmar/Burma Peace Support Initiative (MPSI), led by Norway, has provided support to ceasefire areas since 2012. The Nippon Foundation has recently become more active.

The DIPECHO/DRR and resilience strategy mentioned above (Pacific and South East Asia) will seek complementarity with resilience priorities funded by other EU instruments and EU Member States programmes in the region as well as other active DRR donors (e.g. USAID, World Bank, Asian Development Bank). Union-funded ECHO projects will attempt to inform/influence/complement development programmes so that they incorporate DRR and are more focused on the vulnerable.

3) *Other concomitant EU interventions*

In **Myanmar/Burma**, DEVCO contributes substantially to multi-donor initiatives such as LIFT (livelihoods/food security fund), QBEP (education fund) and 3MDG (health fund) and funds a EUR 25 million action “Support to Peace, Reconciliation and Development in Myanmar/Burma” targeting ethnic regions and the longer term funding of the Myanmar/Burma Peace Centre. The MIP 2014-2020 (EUR 688 million) targets four sectors: 1) Rural Development, Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security; 2) Education; 3) Governance, Rule of Law and State Capacity Building; and 4) Peace Building Support. Other EU interventions include DEVCO's significant number of Non-State Actors, AUP and EIDHR co-funded projects and FPI's²⁶ Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), which supports the setting-up of a Crisis Centre in Nay Pyi Taw, demining, ceasefire monitoring, police training and the start-up phase of the Myanmar/Burma Peace Centre. In **Thailand**, ECHO is coordinating with DEVCO's AUP co-funded projects to ensure complementary support to the camps.

4) *Exit scenarios*

In **Myanmar/Burma**, although ceasefire agreements with many ethnic groups have been negotiated, political solutions to address ethnic minority issues and interfaith dialogue remain challenging for a country still in transition. Durable settlements with ethnic groups should in principle pave the way for sustainable development and a future voluntary return of refugees from **Thailand**. With the challenging humanitarian contexts in Rakhine and Kachin States, efforts to reinforce resilience of vulnerable communities will be maintained, for instance the promotion of DRR, conflict sensitive livelihood schemes and linkages with development programmes. In Thailand, ECHO continues to reduce its funding to the camps over time, focusing only on those in need of assistance in the most vulnerable camps.

In the **Pacific**, ECHO is completing its fourth round of DIPECHO funding to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Following successful LRRD advocacy, DEVCO has allocated EUR 20 million under the 10th EDF for DRR activities in the Pacific. To ensure appropriate scaling up and handover, a final round of funding has been included for Vanuatu in the current HIP. While no further DIPECHO rounds are foreseen for country specific activities in the Pacific, it may benefit from regional initiatives.

²⁶ Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments.