

## TECHNICAL ANNEX

### CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO

#### FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

The provisions of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2016/01000 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

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Operational Unit in charge | ECHO/B5                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Contact persons at HQ      | Ulrika Conradsson, Desk Officer for Caribbean, Central America and Mexico<br><a href="mailto:ulrika.conradsson@ec.europa.eu">ulrika.conradsson@ec.europa.eu</a>             |
| in the field               | Vicente Raimundo, Head of Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean<br><a href="mailto:vicente.raimundo@echofield.eu">vicente.raimundo@echofield.eu</a> |

#### 2. FINANCIAL INFO

Indicative Allocation: EUR 8 300 000

|                                |                 |                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Specific Object 1              | Man-made crises | HA-FA EUR 900 000 |
| Specific Objective 4 - DIPECHO |                 | DP EUR 7 400 000  |
| Total:                         |                 | EUR 8 300 000     |

##### 2.1. Administrative info

###### Assessment round 1

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 8 300 000 (subject to the availability of payment appropriations, the amount awarded may be lower than the overall indicative amount or be spread over time). More information will be available upon adoption of the general budget of the European Union for the year 2016.

- 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 Central America and Mexico.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2016<sup>1</sup>. Actions will start from 01/03/2016
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up to 18 months
- e) Potential partners: All ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form<sup>2</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 18/01/2016<sup>3</sup>

## 2.2. Operational requirements:

### 2.2.1. 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

### 2.2.2. Operational guidelines:

#### 2.2.2.1. General Guidelines

In the design of your 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>

*Food Assistance*

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

*Nutrition*

[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/media/publications/tpd04\\_nutrition\\_addressing\\_undernutrition\\_in\\_emergencies\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/media/publications/tpd04_nutrition_addressing_undernutrition_in_emergencies_en.pdf)

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to ECHO using APPEL

<sup>3</sup> 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.

*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](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/children_2008_Emergency_Crisis_Situations_en.pdf)

*Health*

<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\\_policy\\_doc\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/WASH_policy_doc_en.pdf)

*Gender*

[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/gender-sensitive-aid\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/gender-sensitive-aid_en)

*Disaster Risk Reduction*

[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/prevention\\_preparedness/DRR\\_thematic\\_policy\\_doc.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/prevention_preparedness/DRR_thematic_policy_doc.pdf)

*Remote Management*

[http://dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/actions\\_implementation/remote\\_management/start](http://dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/actions_implementation/remote_management/start)

*ECHO Visibility*

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

- The communication and visibility articles of the General Conditions annexed to the Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs) concluded with non-governmental organizations or international organizations or in the General Conditions for Delegation Agreements concluded in the framework of the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) with the UN.
- Specific visibility requirements agreed-upon in the Single Form, forming an integral part of individual agreements:
  - Section 9.1.A, Standard visibility in the field, including prominent display of the EU humanitarian aid visual identity on EU funded relief items and equipment; derogations are only possible where visibility activities may harm the implementation of the Action or the safety of the staff of the partner, staff of the Implementing partners, the safety of beneficiaries or the local

community and provided that they have been explicitly agreed-upon in the individual agreements.

- Section 9.1.B, Standard visibility recognizing the EU funding through activities such as media outreach, social media engagement and provision of photos stories and blogs; every partner is expected to choose at least 4 out of 7 requirements. If no requirements are selected, a project-specific derogation based on security concerns is needed.
- Section 9.2., Above standard visibility; applicable if requested and if agreed with ECHO based on a dedicated communication plan prior to signature.

Further explanation of visibility requirements and reporting as well as best practices and examples can be consulted on the dedicated ECHO visibility site: <http://www.echo-visibility.eu/>.

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 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.

**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](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. In such contexts, proposals must present a clear analysis of how threats against as well as vulnerabilities and capacities of the affected population impact their protection, and how this is incorporated in the response.

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.

**All ECHO beneficiaries and activities should be appropriately protected from hazards and shocks – according to their likelihood of occurrence, intensity and possible impact.** ECHO uses two complementary methods for DRR: 1) **Integrated DRR** is where ECHO humanitarian interventions are risk informed 2) **Targeted DRR** refers to specific DRR risk reduction actions – that cannot be "integrated" into ECHO response projects (see above) but that will strengthen a system to avoid future humanitarian needs by reducing risk to vulnerable populations.

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 deconfliction 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<sup>4</sup>:** ECHO's objective is to respond to the acute humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable and exposed people while taking opportunities to increase their **resilience** – to reduce on-going and future humanitarian needs and to assist a durable recovery. 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 (see template). 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. Community inclusion should be considered at all stages – design and implementation. Community ownership of the process is more effective and is encouraged. 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. DG ECHO does not advocate for the preferential use of either cash, voucher-based or 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

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<sup>4</sup> Resilience opportunities differ according to context. However, these opportunities should be considered in all locations. HIPs, designed after consultation with partners, should explain broad resilience parameters and expectations of partners. ECHO partners are required to fill in the "Resilience Marker" in the e-Single Form. Four guiding questions are presented. For each of these questions, for example "does the proposal include an adequate analysis of shocks, stresses, and vulnerabilities," the technical annex should indicate expectations (i.e. what may be considered as adequate according to the situation).

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.

**Education in emergencies:** ECHO will support education activities that enable children's access to quality education<sup>5</sup> in ongoing conflicts, complex emergencies and early recovery phases. Furthermore, it may support longer-term educational activities in protracted crises and in refugee/IDP camps Innovative solutions will be supported, in particular actions targeting transition to formal education systems in preparation for a development intervention.

It is essential that education activities are carried out in close connection with protection programs. It is vital to ensure that children can access education where they feel safe and protected. Therefore, education in emergencies activities under this HIP could also include psychosocial support; mine risk education and provision of life-skills, such as vital health, nutrition and hygiene information, HIV prevention, sexual- and reproductive health information and DRR training and awareness.

Education activities could entail enabling access to education for children currently out of school, but also strengthening the quality aspects of education in emergencies, including the recruitment and capacity building of teachers. To reduce the vulnerability of children affected by conflict, actions in the field of education in emergencies and especially conflict situations, should reflect protection, relevant legal frameworks (International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law and Refugee Law), education in mediation and conflict resolution, child protection (with special attention to vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied minors and former child soldiers), community-based educational activities and the promotion of peaceful reconciliation. Hence, education projects funded under this HIP could include components of child protection and peace education (i.e. mediation, conflict resolution, etc.).

In order to ensure holistic response, linking education to other life-saving humanitarian sectors, such as WASH and health could also be considered.

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

Coordination is essential and all education in emergencies projects need to coordinate and support the priorities set by relevant humanitarian and if appropriate development governance mechanisms (e.g. Global Education Cluster, Refugee Working Groups, communities of practices, Local Education Groups), as well as national structures (e.g. Ministry of Education).

All actions funded on education in emergencies should in their design adhere to the [INEE Minimum Standards for Education: Preparedness, Response, Recovery](#), as well as the [IASC Minimum Standards for Child Protection](#).

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<sup>5</sup> The Commission adhere to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child that defines a 'child' as a person below the age of 18.



### 2.2.2.2. Specific guidelines

#### A. Operational Considerations

In addition to the general guidelines, a series of programme planning and implementation priorities **must be considered by all projects** submitted under this DRR/Disaster Preparedness call for proposals for Central America to be considered eligible for funding.

1. All DRR/DP ECHO actions should contribute to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFA). All proposed actions should look at supporting the on-going implementation measures of the SFA in the region. In their proposals, applicants are encouraged to refer to the SFA four priorities and when possible to their main relevant indicators.

2. All DRR targeted actions supported by DG ECHO have to be aligned and to fit into the respective national and regional (PCGIR) DRR frameworks. This includes policies, strategies, legislation and planning at various levels. Promotion of the roll out and implementation of respective regional and national DRR frameworks and programmes, through enhancing the core interface between ECHO DRR targeted actions, the National Disaster Management Systems and CEPREDENAC will be supported. Synergies with mandated international organizations such as the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) or the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) are encouraged in particular in the case of regional projects and for proposals including activities contributing to the international campaigns (e.g.: Resilient Cities, Safe Hospitals and Schools).

3. **The entry point** for the intervention logic of any ECHO DRR targeted action supported must be **the hazard itself**, and not a problem that is essentially structural in nature, de-linked from a disaster event. This entails a thorough analysis of the natural disaster context (at the appropriate scale) that generates the following:

- a typology of hazards (the focus will be on multi-hazard approaches)
- the potential negative consequences of these hazards (some of which can be termed disasters),
- an analysis of these negative consequences and a prioritisation of those considered most important by the population(s) at risk,
- a breakdown of the needs ensuing from these hazards and the identification (prioritisation) of those which can most appropriately be addressed by ECHO DRR targeted actions.

4. In line with the Resilience Action Plan of June 2013, DG ECHO and other departments of the EU institutions will share joint analysis, common priorities, coordinated planning, and a multi-sectorial approach that will eventually lead to phase-out and handover of EU funded projects either to the target community / institution, the relevant authorities, or to an appropriate longer-term funding instrument. In this sense, the partner must **demonstrate a clearly defined overall intervention strategy** at the time of proposal submission that will ultimately **conclude with phase-out and handover**. This will imply actively advocating towards and engaging with governmental

bodies and development donors for joint planning so that activities can be assimilated and carried on by them, as well as for the establishment of political and technical mechanisms to ensure the continuity of efforts, regardless of political changes. For that, conditions for **replicability and sustainability** plans have to be considered (e.g.: inclusion of DRR allocation in municipal budget, and other evidences that political commitments and institutional engagements allow a continuity and scaling up of the operations, etc).

5. Actions should prioritise **appropriate costs, affordable and replicable methodologies** adaptable to local financing and planning mechanisms or easily bought in by national/sub-national authorities or by development actors and by other donors. This approach should remain at the centre of any DRR ECHO intervention.

6. The strategic dialogue that results in the conception and design of DRR targeted actions will have to **successfully merge technical knowledge with local and indigenous knowledge** in a socio-culturally appropriate manner, thereby assuring an acceptable, effective system that capitalizes existing knowledge and capacities and consequently maximizes ownership and sustainability.

7. The implementation of a successful DP/DRR strategy is dependent upon **the sustained investment of all stakeholders at multiple levels before, during and upon completion of the project cycle**. This entails as complete an involvement of communities and relevant authorities as is feasible throughout the entire project cycle, from problem/hazard/risk identification, through project conception and design to implementation. Likewise, relevant public entities, officials and stakeholders at the appropriate levels must be consulted and involved at all stages of the action (design, preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, follow-up and hand-over where feasible) to ensure sustainability and replication.

8. Additionally, actions should ensure comprehensive **participatory approaches and methodologies that address vulnerabilities and inclusiveness** as far as different gender groups, children, the elder, marginalized groups, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, are concerned. Full participation (and in particular and in terms of vulnerability and capacity analysis) from those vulnerable groups and persons, beyond protection aspects, should always be taken into consideration. Engaging mechanisms involving the civil society in general, other humanitarian actors, parliamentarians, media, academic institutions, etc are also encouraged.

9. In recognition of the complementary nature of DP programming, **all community-based DRR strategies are to be developed within the context of an on-going, established development strategy** with the target community. ECHO support should not **be seen as a start-up fund**. The only exception for considering ad hoc, focused or stand-alone disaster preparedness activities, would be when applicants apply an innovative approach. Even where a DRR strategy is introduced as an exit vehicle for the phase-out of a DG ECHO strategy, thereby facilitating the linking of a humanitarian relief intervention with rehabilitation, recovery and development (LRRD), long term development perspectives must be considered.

10. Applicants should provide details of the **coordination mechanisms existing both at local, sub-national and national levels taking into account linkages with other on-going initiatives funded by other donors** (including governmental ones) and the proposed modalities for coordination. Also, in order to gain efficiency and impact, partners should integrate in proposals and budgets their participation **in joint activities with other DRR stakeholders and among ECHO partners** (e.g. Disaster Reduction Day, programming processes and consultations on the implementation of DRR agendas, participation in and contribution to regional DRR/CCA forums, awareness campaigns, communication and dissemination strategies, advocacy, regular coordination mechanisms, etc.) from the beginning of the Action Plan. Advocacy with the objective of increasing the humanitarian space should also be fomented between partners. In this sense, **enhancing networking and promoting the exchange of experiences and development of joint initiatives** related to DRR matters are strongly encouraged, in particular, in the framework for example of the preparation of regional and global events, such as the Regional Platform on DRR in Guayaquil in May 2014 and the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Japan in 2015. This is why a **collaborative strategic formulation and planning that promote mutual complementarity is strongly encouraged**. This can take the form of joint initiatives implemented through several projects (alliances on specific issues) or joint projects (consortia). In case of consortia or multi-country operations, these should demonstrate a clear operational added value.

11. A key interface in the development of DP/DRR strategies is the National Disaster Management institutions, which are responsible for the articulation of a national risk reduction policy. However, **this does not preclude a multi-ministerial planning/programming dialogue. In this sense, a proper integration into key identified sectors should be ensured and** improved advocacy and technical support must be implemented for DRR to be fully integrated into development planning and funding with the relevant Line Ministries and Departments (including Ministries of Finance, so as to raise awareness on public investments on DRR, to be linked to a prioritization of areas to be covered in function of a clear risk analysis).

12. Applicants must systematically consider **the capitalization of experiences** (key lessons learned, as well as documentation processes following accepted methodologies in the region) and most of all, their **dissemination** in an appropriate manner. These activities should be explicitly envisaged under the activities and in the work plan of each proposal, developing or using a common capitalization and dissemination methodology. **In order to foment more appropriateness, dissemination mechanisms should be developed and serve to encourage the application of existing tools at different levels. In order to avoid a dispersion of efforts, a national strategy should be put in place and all partners are encouraged to jointly support this. The strategy should, under the leadership of National Systems, include a revision of what currently exists, and based on this, select what is to be part of a “national package” to be disseminated following the most appropriate mechanisms.** This is in line with the general consensus which exists between national and regional authorities and ECHO partners on focusing more on analysing what has been produced until now rather than continuing producing new tools. Partners submitting a proposal in the framework of this action plan are expected to work on solutions to tackle the causes of the non-utilization of products,

processes and tools and to increase their dissemination (either widely or well-targeted) through regional and national agreed packages instead of focusing in endlessly developing tools with reduced impact.

13. For the risk analysis and as mentioned above, the entry point of a DRR targeted action is the natural hazard itself and this doesn't change. But the evolution of the humanitarian context in Central America shows that humanitarian stakeholders have to take into consideration the **impact of organized violence, as a key element of increased vulnerability** of the population and **reduced capacity** of basic social services in different areas of the region. Proposed operations should then take into account the **integration of this variable** in their analysis of vulnerabilities and capacities, allowing a more comprehensive approach when strengthening capacities (e.g: ensure safe and equal access to assistance for the population, include the analysis of this variable when elaborating emergency response plans, monitor humanitarian access, evacuation plans ensuring safety of the population, etc). In this sense, mainstreaming of protection and in some cases, the integration of protection approach and specific activities in DRR may be needed. Partners are then encouraged to apply the minimum inter-agency standards for mainstreaming of protection in humanitarian response (core standards).<sup>6</sup> When selecting and monitoring projects in areas affected by organized violence, DG ECHO will take into consideration the attention paid by the partners to the impact of organized violence on the local population and to the integration of a protection approach.

14. The impact of organized violence has also important consequences for the work performed by humanitarian actors in the region **security wise**<sup>7</sup>. In this sense, ECHO will pay a particular attention in ensuring a safe and secure provision of aid (see principles on page 3). The selection of staff to work in such an environment will be particularly important and a constant monitoring of threats will have to be implemented. 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 must be dedicated by all ECHO partners to implement these measures and to ensure full understanding of, as well as a full adhesion 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 also expected from all ECHO partners. These issues will be part of the appraisal of projects submitted to DG ECHO in the framework of the 2015-2016 action plan, ECHO will give priority to partners that take this into consideration, and strengthen their capacities as well as those of their implementing partners. In this sense, funding for security matters might be included in proposals.

15. Proposed operations should, when appropriate, take into account the integration of **preparedness to the risk of epidemics** in their planning as part of a comprehensive risk

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<sup>6</sup> Please consult [http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Full\\_Report\\_3752.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Full_Report_3752.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Please refer to basic literature on this matter

[https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/Stay\\_and\\_Deliver\\_Spanish.pdf](https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/Stay_and_Deliver_Spanish.pdf)

approach. In this sense, where appropriate, local and municipal multi-hazards approach plans should include epidemiologic outbreaks protocols and the respective coordination with institutions leading the national response in this type of threats. However, this approach should not replace what might be covered by DG ECHO's other financial instruments such as the epidemic decision.

16. **Baseline surveys** at the beginning and at the end of the project at community and institutional level should be carried out in order to measure the achievements of the project (e.g. KAP surveys).

17. **Climate change adaptation (CCA)** cannot be the sole focus of a specific and ad hoc DRR targeted action. However, DG ECHO considers CCA concepts an integral component of DRR. In this context, although Climate Change cannot be the entry point of a DRR targeted action, risk analysis, tools and methodologies should integrate CCA concepts when relevant and feasible. Moreover, linkages to and promotion of methodologies for transfer of experiences into Climate Change initiatives are strongly recommended.

18. Where relevant and feasible, with the aim of strengthening on-going coordination mechanisms and increasing capacities of national DRR systems, **cooperation and exchanges between European and South American Civil Protection systems** may be pursued. Additionally, seeking to advance integrated response approaches and promoting humanitarian principles, actions of technical nature aiming at the different national military might be envisaged

19. Proposals that seek merely to address **structural issues**, for example, of food insecurity or inadequate delivery of basic services, **will not be considered eligible**.

20. **Small-scale mitigation works** and infrastructure should only be foreseen when adding value to a local disaster management plan.

21. Actions covering the **Dry corridor** of Central America have to complement ongoing food-security related actions.

22. Specific DRR interventions regarding drought should aim to increase the resilience of livelihoods and of populations living in areas at risk, notably those located in the Dry Corridor of Central America. The proposed actions must foster and serve to strengthen the response, coping and recovery capacities of communities exposed and vulnerable to droughts through disaster management integrated approaches. Interventions could include:

- Support the adoption and multiplication of preparedness activities regarding the management of drought and improved resilience of livelihoods.
- Integration of communities in EWS.
- Consolidate the institutionalization of existing local, municipal and national early warning systems and their protocols regarding drought, and food and nutrition security.

- Participatory elaboration of risks maps with communities and municipalities in order to feed decision making and develop community action plans for drought preparedness.
- Support of coordination mechanisms (at national and regional levels) and promote synergies with long term programming and coordination with donors. Proposed linkages between national and relevant regional initiatives should be clearly stated in the proposals.

23. Taking into account that the consultative process and the updating of DRR country reports have evolved over the years, and are not DIPECHO specific anymore, these processes will not be carried out necessarily in the same way in the region, as they will depend on national decisions to carry out these processes. In this sense, **the consultative process and updating of country reports will be based on requirements established by the National Systems**. This is why the budget considered in the proposals to this effect should be adapted to the requirements expressed by the National Systems of the region when identifying and formulating your proposals so as to support protocols to be put in place. Partners must also contribute to the strategy of dissemination of the country reports and its use as an instrument of planning for DRR and contribute to the stock tacking exercise of past processes.

24. Systematic integration of **technical, specific and scientific institutions (national and regional ones) and of the academic sector should be sought; as well as collaborations with the private sector**. Proposed actions should also seek for synergies with institutions in charge of **Municipal Development**, in order to contribute to institutionalization processes.

25. Partners are encouraged to follow and enforce national standards. However, in areas that may not be covered by national legislation and standards and when applicable, partners are expected to take into account **Sphere** minimum standards, indicators and guidance notes as a minimum.

26. Regarding **human resources**, it is suggested to start the recruitment process of the staff as soon as possible. We remind in this regard that the starting date for the eligibility of costs can be set before the actual starting date of the project. Staff should be carefully selected in order to ensure a sound management of the project and expected level of quality. Gender and age balanced teams should be sought for as much as possible in order to ensure adequate access to the beneficiaries. It is recommended to ensure sufficient and well qualified staff to carry out the planned activities of the project; and to recur to external services only if needed.

27. In view of the level of **DRR institutionalization and appropriation** enjoyed by the region, partners are expected to jointly identify with the National Disaster Management Systems, priorities to which they can contribute at national level. This means for example – but not limited to – the institutionalization of processes and experiences, consolidate the use of systematized tools, the joint dissemination of products and processes on the basis of the establishment of national packages of DRR tools, strengthening communication and improve knowledge management, support to consultative processes, the establishment of common approaches for DRR work in the country, a support to the

development of training content, etc. The national project will also support the coordination mechanisms between partners and national disaster management systems.

28. DG ECHO support is only a contribution to an established strategy and will put strong emphasis in selecting actions that are strategically oriented towards the above recommendations, and guaranteeing a quality of execution. Projects will have to demonstrate a bigger impact on DRR national processes as well as consolidate past achievements. The aim is to scale up the past and present community based initiatives developed and ensure their integration in future DRR work in the country so as to concretize their demonstrative effect<sup>8</sup>. Actions will then have to further contemplate institutional linkages and advocacy (based on evidences of success), and the work done at community level will reach maximum effectiveness if outputs and outcomes feed the implementation of DRR policies.

### **B. Operational Priorities:**

The actions to be funded under this HIP should support and foster the priorities and strategic actions highlighted in the Declaration of the Third Regional Consultative Forum of the Central American Policy for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (PCGIR); as well as the objectives and indicators of CEPREDEMAC's Regional Plan for Disaster Reduction (2014-2019). Moreover, priorities specified in the strategic documents produced by the different DRR and Disaster Management National Systems of Central America countries should be also considered.

Regarding the selection and prioritization of intervention areas, applicants will have to properly explain and justify their choice based on thorough risk and needs assessments, including comparative analysis, implemented in coordination with relevant institutions and other agencies. Even if the proposed action focuses on one specific country, it is desirable that applicants read also the regional recommendations as national operations are expected to be in line with them.

Messages and priorities presented below have an indicative nature and might be taken into account when preparing a proposal:

As stated under section A point 13, for the **risk analysis**, the entry point of a proposed intervention, should be the natural hazard itself. However, the evolution of the humanitarian context in certain areas in Central America shows that humanitarian stakeholders have to take into consideration the impact of social unrest and organized violence, as a key element of increased vulnerability of the population and reduced capacity of basic social services in different areas of the countries. Therefore, proposed operations should take into account (if relevant and appropriate) the integration of this variable in their analysis of vulnerabilities and capacities, allowing a more comprehensive approach when strengthening capacities. The

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<sup>8</sup> *Recognizing that some of the project results can only be achieved over the long term, DRR strategies that are multi-phased in nature (i.e. entail a series of phases financed over  $\geq 1$  Action Plan) are welcomed. However, the partners have to be aware that ECHO cannot guarantee a priori acceptance of multi-phased projects*

aim being to adapt protocols of intervention, test solutions for replication to address issues linked to high level of organized violence, to create conditions to guarantee protection and access to assistance as well as to adapt the delivery of basic services for the population affected by the violence.

Additionally, as stated under section A point 15, when appropriate, partners are expected to take into account the integration of preparedness to the risk of epidemics in their planning as part of a comprehensive risk approach. In this regard, local and municipal multi-hazards approach plans should include epidemiologic outbreaks protocols and the respective coordination with institutions leading the national response in this type of threats. However, this approach should not replace what might be covered by DG ECHO's other financial instruments such as the epidemic decision.

## **GUATEMALA**

Actions aiming to support DP in Guatemala should be aligned with priorities established by National Authorities under the leadership of the Executive Secretary of the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (SE-CONRED). The identification of thematic and geographic intervention areas should consider the priorities identified in the respective country document of Guatemala.

Furthermore, some priorities which were identified in precedent actions plans on DP financed by ECHO that remain significant are:

- Strengthening the coordination between the national system and the different institutions of the system, notably fostering the leadership of responsible institutions at different levels in the field of Disaster Risk Management.
- Promote comprehensive and combined scenarios assessment on the drought hazard analysis, e.g. combining drought and flooding. Including strengthening the integration of drought risk approach in zones that are regularly affected by this hazard.
- The impact of the organised violence in the country leads to a situation of entire communities being confined or displaced and receiving limited access to basic services (including DRR). In the light of this situation, DRR tools and protocols need to be adapted to address context specific issues linked to insecurity, combining bottom up and top down approaches.
- Promote the dissemination and use of the existing specific national regulations for the reduction of the vulnerabilities in infrastructures.
- Promote the access of most vulnerable households -notably at urban level- to financial services and incentives for realization of basic DRR activities through their inclusion into the municipal plans and budgets.
- Strengthen the mechanisms for the generation, processing, registration exchange and dissemination of information and tools, regarding hazards and vulnerabilities with a decentralized and responsibilities-shared approach.
- Contribute to the strengthening of the planning process for risk reduction and disaster response at the territorial level with special attention to the municipal and sectoral areas.
- Increase and strengthen the monitoring and alert capacity at the territorial level through implementing decentralized systems interconnected with a national approach, notably regarding the drought threaten.



- Promote and encourage an ethical, transparent commitment of stakeholders, both in national and regional DRR processes in situations of disasters and humanitarian emergencies.
- Support the participation and effective involvement of indigenous people and particularly women in DRR processes.

Indicative amount expected: EUR 3 M<sup>9</sup>

Preference will be given to at least 15 % co-financed proposals.

## **HONDURAS**

Actions aiming to support DP in Honduras should be aligned with the priorities established by National Authorities under the leadership of the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO). The identification of thematic and geographic intervention areas should consider the priorities identified in the respective country document of Honduras.

Furthermore, some priorities which were identified in precedent actions plans on DP financed by ECHO that remain significant are:

- Promoting the establishment of information management systems at municipal level and the coordination and communication with the central database of COPECO
- Further promote the effective knowledge of the SINAGER law by stakeholders with the aim of consolidating an effective DRM system, able to respond to emergencies and promote DRR activities.
- Foster the institutionalization of processes (including DRR tools); under the leadership of the competent authorities, including the participation of various sectorial stakeholders and civil society actors in the relevant area. Disaster risk management in urban context and education should be integrated in proposed actions.
- Seismic hazards should be further addressed in the country.
- The responsible institutions in each pertinent level should be supported in establishing a mechanism for regular updating and development of risk analysis at the territorial level with maps of hazards and vulnerabilities based on standardized and institutionalized methodologies.
- Contribute to the standardization and institutionalization of trainings on DRR with emphasis on improving the content and offer.
- Disseminate the SINAGER law and its related regulations and promote their implementation at all levels with particular emphasis on municipal and community levels.
- Promote, encourage and ensure the effective operation of the CODEM and CODED where the authorities that lead /coordinate and their members, assume their responsibilities and ownership of the processes.
- Support the decentralization of management resources to regional offices to expand and strengthen the existing coordination and communication links with the Territorial and Sectorial Committees.
- Increase the coverage and quality of municipal plans/ Management of local risk and

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<sup>9</sup> This indicative amount is subject to quality of proposals received

response under the leadership and participation of all members of the CODEM/CODEL and using standardized methods and formats

- Institutionalize the territorial scope in relation to practical exercises of preparedness and drills/ simulations, under the responsibility of municipal governments and institutions with territorial representation.
- Develop and strengthen a national network for early warning systems operating independently but interconnected, interrelated and linked to the central monitoring and tracking of COPECO.
- Contribute to address that all stakeholders should respect the principles and codes of humanitarian conduct in disasters.
- Carry on assertive actions to encourage, motivate and facilitate the participation of representatives of indigenous and Afro-descendants in DRR processes.
- The impact of the organised violence in the country leads to a situation of entire communities being confined or displaced and receiving limited access to basic services (including DRR). In the light of this situation, DRR tools and protocols need to be adapted to address context specific issues linked to insecurity, combining bottom up and top down approaches.
- The widespread presence of organised violence is increasing disaster risk in urban settings.
- Additional efforts for adequate response and disaster risk reduction measures to slow onset disasters such as droughts are also required.
- Better use of DRR tools that have been elaborated and promoted in the framework of past DRR operations should be ensured. Continue the support for the institutionalization replication of priority DRR tools by the regional and national systems. This approach should be complemented by the adaptation of DRR tools to address context specific issues linked to insecurity, combining bottom up and top down approach; and by emergency preparedness and response actions, enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response.
- Coordination on DRR issues between the institutions composing the national system should also be improved. The auxiliary role of the National Red Cross Society and of the NGOs should also be strengthened to improve preparedness for an effective response to disasters caused by natural hazards.

Indicative amount expected: EUR 2.5 M<sup>10</sup>

Preference will be given to at least 15 % co-financed proposals.

## **EL SALVADOR**

Actions aiming to support DP in El Salvador should be aligned with the priorities established by National Authorities under the leadership of the General Directorate of Civil Protection (DGCP). The identification of thematic and geographic intervention areas should consider the priorities identified in the respective country document of El Salvador.

Furthermore, some priorities which were identified in precedent actions plans on DP financed by ECHO that remain significant are:

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<sup>10</sup> This indicative amount is subject to quality of proposals received

- Provide support to the DGPC/SAV to consolidate the Permanent Forum for the Reduction of Vulnerabilities and the National School of Civil Protection, as a space where evidences of success on DRR, practices and tools from past years might be institutionalized and allow the development of standardized curricula. At the same time, support the earthquake preparedness measures and campaigns promoted by the National System.
- The impact of the high levels of violence and presence of organised violence in the country leads to a situation of entire communities being confined or displaced and receiving limited access to basic services (including DRR). In the light of this situation, DRR tools and protocols need to be adapted to address context specific issues linked to insecurity, combining bottom up and top down approaches.
- Further develop the livelihoods protection aspects and when relevant and appropriate include epidemic preparedness in the trainings at community and municipal level.
- Foster the institutionalization of processes (including DRR tools); under the leadership of the competent authorities, including the participation of various sectorial stakeholders and civil society actors in the relevant area.
- Ensure the socialization of information generated at scientific and technical levels produced by government institutions and non-governmental agencies. Also, strengthen the links between competent technical institutions and the proposed actions.
- Strengthen the coordination mechanisms to ensure effective national communication and ensure horizontal and vertical flow of information from sectorial, technical, departmental, municipal and local structures committees and the Directorate General of Civil Protection. In this sense, creation and / or adaptation of information management might be considered (e.g. databases on current response and preparedness plans as well as mechanisms for monitoring updates of these plans to strengthen local and municipal levels). In addition, develop and promote strategies and mechanisms to strengthen the link between sectorial and community plans.
- Other climate-related phenomena, such as recurrent droughts, should be more integrated from a prospective risk approach in zones that are being regularly affected by this hazard.

Indicative amount expected: EUR 2 M<sup>11</sup>

Preference will be given to at least 15 % co-financed proposals.

### **NICARAGUA:**

Actions aiming to support DP in Nicaragua should be aligned with the priorities established by National Authorities under the leadership of the Disaster Preparedness National System (CD-SINAPRED) and in coherence and support of the National Policy on Comprehensive Management of Disaster Risk Reduction (PNGIRRD), with which promotes permanent changes in the organization and conduct of the National System for Prevention, Mitigation and Attention to Disasters (SINAPRED), with the main objective the preservation and

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<sup>11</sup> This indicative amount is subject to quality of proposals received

protection of life of the Nicaraguan people. The identification of thematic and geographic intervention areas should consider the priorities identified in the respective country document of Nicaragua.

While the impact of OSV is much less in Nicaragua than in other countries, the situation requires however a follow up on 2 aspects: continuous influx of population fleeing insecurity in El Salvador and Honduras, presence of organized violence in the Atlantic region. However, if and wherever needed, DRR tools and protocols would also be adapted to address context specific issues linked to insecurity.

Furthermore, some priorities which were identified in precedent actions plans on DP financed by ECHO that remain significant are:

- Identification and implementation of institutional mechanisms for regular use and updating of maps and studies of existing threats. To this end, use and dissemination of the Information Management System on Disaster Preparedness (SIGER) together with National Authorities would be relevant.
- The indicator matrix to measure capacities at municipal level should be institutionalized and complemented by tools used at community level. This would also support the strengthening to the SIGER system, as it will consolidate the database of the local level.
- Contribute to the formalization of mechanisms to institutionalize the dissemination and publication of existing information on risks and to ensure a free and easy access to the entire population.
- Support the national system for institutionalization and replication of priority DRR tools
- Develop mechanisms to strengthen the linkages of communication, coordination and joint work amongst the organized structures. It is recommended to include the private sector and any other pertinent actor as part of the functioning strategies of the COMUPREDs.
- Support the effective implementation of the legal framework related to disaster risk reduction, and revise and adapt mechanisms to integrate and explicitly recognize reality, culture, organizational expressions and representation of indigenous and ethnic groups, and other realities.
- Promote the mainstreaming of gender/age, multi-cultural considerations and inclusion of people with disabilities in all operations.
- Promote the awareness on humanitarian principles in the country so as to reinforce alliances, partnerships and the need to reach the most vulnerable people.
- Strengthen the partnership and alliances between non-governmental organizations and the national system for disaster risk management. Also, the work that has been done with the academic sector could be replicated and amplified so as to better integrate DRR in several sectors.
- There is a lack of studies on vulnerabilities, in this sense support to a joint work between INIDE and SINAPRED could be supported for the validation of tools to measure social and physical vulnerabilities. The use of academic knowledge and tools should be promoted, including towards the local level.
- The development of monitoring mechanisms of the sustainability of generated capacities would be welcomed. In addition, support municipalities in developing an outreach plan to disseminate the municipal response plans through local media, promoted by the municipality.
- EWS: Based on the existing diagnoses, strengthen and consolidate the existing systems

rather than creating new ones, except when relevant.

- Strengthen the joint work between institutions such as INETER, INIFOM, SE-SINAPRED, MARENA, ANA y AMUNIC to provide a joint follow-up to municipalities for the effective integration of DRR in development plans.
- Establish protocols for the continuous training of DRR technicians at all levels. Also, strengthen the capacity of the members of the Special Operations Committees within the territories, and develop standardized methodologies for training to BRILOR and BRIMUR and mechanisms of self-sustainability including training, and equipment.
- Sector specific DRR measures (in e.g. WASH, Shelter, Food Assistance, Health...) will be integrated, using DRR tools and good practices elaborated in previous DIPECHO action plans (e.g. drought risk reduction measures in food assistance response to a drought).

Indicative amount expected: EUR 800 000<sup>12</sup>

Preference will be given to at least 15 % co-financed proposals.

## REGIONAL LEVEL

Different intervention modalities are open to partners such as:

- **national project** (one operation, one agreement),
- **multicounty projects** (same organization with several countries targeted and one agreement),
- **trans-borders initiatives** between Central American countries (cross border river basin, shared hazards along the borders) or
- **regional projects** (one operation with several countries targeted - including regional products - in one agreement).

**Regional projects**<sup>13</sup> 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 the identification and formulation of the operations. **Regional actions are also expected to support the articulation with local and national ones, promoting exchanges of experiences and coordination.** They must also have a **direct link with the community** level i.e.: some of the components developed have to serve the local level. Regional actions should also look at the consolidation, scaling up and use of evidences and experiences developed in the region during the past years. There is also the possibility that regional actions can be targeted through different proposals (e.g.: same result or common approaches in different local or national proposals to facilitate analysis at regional level).

Regional proposals must explain the added value of their regional approach which can be due to: a unique hazard affecting several countries; a set of solutions available in different

<sup>12</sup> This indicative amount is subject to quality of proposals received.

<sup>13</sup> Regional projects ideally, and for overall coherence, should take into consideration the four countries in their planning and formulation. This will therefore contribute to strengthen the Central American integration system. However, exceptionally, depending on the nature of the projects and for feasibility reasons, partners might cover only some of these countries but maintaining the regional approach.

countries that could be strengthened by sharing them; a common regulation or legislation that is being prepared for countries acting under the coordinating regional body CEPREDENAC; a consultation that will provide countries perspective for regional or global purposes.

As coordination is a key issue at regional level, applicants for regional proposals should ensure and highlight **their complementarities/linkages with national priorities, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), CEPREDENAC's PCGIR** (it is strongly recommended that project proposals identify how each activity line contributes to the implementation of the PCGIR), **PRRD, and with other donors and existing global initiatives**. Applicants should respect a particularly close coordination with SE/CEPREDENAC, and other EC funding programmes as well as with national authorities to facilitate the implementation of projects.

**For all actions proposed, these must be oriented towards the technical support role** (support on technical aspects, specific tools and approaches to address DRR issues) **and/or advocacy role.**

Regional priorities include:<sup>14</sup>

**Support in the standardization at regional level on hazard analysis, disaster risk indicators and risk perception** (including the standardization of tools and harmonization of mapping and data bases, development of popular versions, contribute to the assessment of use/utility/appropriateness of existing indicators with countries and support the establishment of a line to take at this level, etc.)

#### **HARMONIZATION OF APPROACHES:**

- Significant advances have been achieved in DRR lately and among other aspects, in urban contexts, in the protection of livelihoods in slow onset disasters, and on Early Warning Systems. These achievements should now be replicated and scaled up, while processes, practices and tools should be institutionalized (based on previous years of experiences).
- On other issues such as accountability (increase accountability mechanisms, and provide training to stakeholders and support initiatives in this regard), security (homologate security protocols between NGOs and foment the exchange of information on this issue to improve mechanisms), protection approaches (contribute to the effective mainstreaming of protection in DRR and response actions, create better links between protection actors and humanitarian community and provide practical guidance to practitioners), and general DRR training curricula, harmonization efforts can be supported at regional level.

#### **INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT:**

- Capitalization and dissemination of exportable DRR tools, consolidation of evidences, good practices and lessons learned which represent an added value at regional level. This includes the promotion of a common regional approach to exchange experiences

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<sup>14</sup> Please refer to the regional document for further details

corresponding to the needs of targeted publics, support the creation of regional packages on DRR and ensure its proper dissemination and use.

- Support to the existing networks, such as the regional platform of information management and communication, will be a priority compared to the creation of new ones.
- Creation/strengthening of mechanisms to rescue the knowledge of communities, and also to take into consideration their specific needs of appropriate tools.

In the region, there is a consensus on the need to focus on the replication of tools and good practices rather than keeping on creating new ones. However, methodologies for the appropriate dissemination of tools should be revised, as the current methods and forms might be revised to effectively reach the public targeted. Strategic alliances with existing information networks can be enhanced for specific support and trainings (Redhum, etc)

- **Communication.** Design public awareness campaigns on humanitarian principles as well as needs and rights of people affected by disasters. Create innovative tools for the dissemination of messages and awareness-raising of urban populations on the risks they face, for example establish alliances between the authorities and the media for a massive diffusion of messages to generate a culture of prevention. Inclusion in the baseline studies of the needed elements to design appropriate tools and communication strategies.

- **Advocacy** work towards different stakeholders, including SICA institutions and development donors, is strongly encouraged and will be supported. This work should be based on evidences of success in terms of DRR and can be implemented through specific regional or national proposals focusing on this component.

Finally, all regional operations that might strengthen the links, cross-fertilization and look for complementarities with DRR actions executed in South America and the Caribbean, are welcome.