

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)

SOUTH AMERICA

AMOUNT: EUR 18 165 000

The present Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) was prepared on the basis of financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2016/01000 (Worldwide Decision) and the related General Guidelines for Operational Priorities on Humanitarian Aid (Operational Priorities). The purpose of the HIP and its annex is to serve as a communication tool for ECHO's partners and to assist in the preparation of their proposals. The provisions of the Worldwide Decision and the General Conditions of the Agreement with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

0. Major changes since previous version of the HIP

Third modification

The remaining amount of EUR 14 374 is moved from Specific Objective 2 (Natural Disasters) to Specific Objective 1 (Man-made crisis). Conflict affected populations often live in areas impacted by both armed conflict and natural disasters (double affectation). The funds will allow conflict affected populations affected by the current floods in the Choco Department in Colombia to benefit from combined assistance.

Second Modification

Ecuador

On 16 April 2016, at 23.58 UTC (18.58 hrs local time), an earthquake of 7.8 magnitude struck Ecuador's central coast, with an epicentre at a depth of 20 km. The epicentre was located 27 km south-southeast of the coastal town of Muisne. This was the country's largest quake in decades, strongly felt also in the capital, Quito, 169 km away, causing widespread damage and casualties, leaving over 660 people dead, at least 4 600 people wounded, 73 000 displaced and over 200 000 people in need of humanitarian assistance.

The needs assessments confirm that the most urgent needs are primary emergency kits, access to safe water, food, psychosocial support, shelter (tents, tarpaulin), support to coordination, and information and communication at field and national level.

Since 16 April there have been over 370 aftershocks recorded, the two latest on 18 May at 16.46 UTC, of magnitude 6.7 and 6.8, in the provinces of Esmeraldas and Manabi. An additional 10 000 people are reported evacuated, with one dead in Tosagua (Manabi province), 85 injured and over 2 500 homes partially or fully damaged in the affected provinces.

Following the first allocation of EUR 1 000 000, **an additional amount of EUR 4 000 000 has been added to the current HIP to provide multi-sector emergency assistance to victims of the earthquakes and the aftershocks**, focusing on shelter in suburban and rural areas, WASH, resilient livelihoods, protection and psychosocial support, with possible interventions in the health sector. Funds will be used to cover the primary emergency needs of up to 80 000 most vulnerable affected people. Target populations and regions concerned are: Pedernales, Muisne, San Vicente, Manta and

Portoviejo. The affected populations include those directly affected by the earthquake and the aftershocks.

Mandated international organisations as well as international non-governmental organisations (INGO) already present in the areas of response will implement the necessary assistance.

Paraguay:

Since November 2015, heavy rains have been affecting several areas of Paraguay, particularly the middle and lower Paraguay River basin, with river levels having reached critical heights and large areas remaining flooded several months after the start of the crises. Water levels are expected to rise further with forecasts of high probability of rainfalls above normal with the start of the rainy season in April-May, lasting until September, leading to additional displacement of flood affected population.

National and local capacities are overwhelmed, with no further possibilities for providing assistance to the population in need. Due to the poor sanitation conditions, an epidemic alert was declared by the Government in January 2016. Additional funds are needed to cover the basic needs of the rising number of displaced population

An additional amount of EUR 1 000 000 has been added to the current HIP for response actions. The additional funds will be used to cover the needs of 20 000 most vulnerable flood affected people (out of a total of 132 000) in the City of Asuncion living in temporary camps, with an additional 7 000 expected to be affected by flash floods in Alberdi Department of Ñeembucu (i.e. Alberdi, Pilar and other affected towns). The funds will be used mainly to cover the needs in the WASH sector -where minimum standards are not reached in any of the camps - providing save access to water as well as increasing the level of sanitation and hygiene in the camps in Asuncion and the most affected areas in the Paraguay River basin, as well as to provide support to local authorities in formulation of contingency plans to reduce risks related to additional flooding and further displacement. Mandated international organisations as well as international non-governmental organisations (INGO) already present in the areas of response would be the obvious partners to implement the necessary assistance.

First Modification

Ecuador

On 16 April 2016, at 23.58 UTC (18.58 hrs local time), an earthquake of a 7.8 magnitude struck Ecuador's central coast, with an epicentre at a depth of 20 km. The epicentre is located 27 km south-southeast of the coastal town of Muisne. Several aftershocks have been reported, the biggest of 5.4 magnitude. This was the country's largest quake in decades, strongly felt also in the capital, Quito, 169km away. First needs assessments confirm that most urgent needs are primary emergency kits; access to safe water; food; psychosocial support; shelter (tents, tarpaulin); support for in depth needs assessments; support to the coordination, information and communication process at field and national level. Support may be provided to emergency telecommunications. Needs assessments are currently ongoing.

An additional amount of EUR 1 000 000 has been added to the current HIP to provide multi-sector emergency assistance to victims of the earthquake and its aftershocks. Funds will be used to cover the primary emergency needs of up to 20 000

most vulnerable affected people. ECHO has several partners in the field. Target populations and regions concerned: the most affected areas are Pedernales, Muisne, San Vicente, Manta and Portoviejo. Since 16 April there have been 373 aftershocks recorded. Affected populations include those directly affected by the earthquake and also by aftershocks.

Mandated international organisations as well as international non-governmental organisations (INGO) already present in the areas of response would be the obvious partners to implement the necessary assistance.

Education in Emergencies

Following the political orientation provided by Commissioner Stylianides to scale-up ECHO's financial support towards education in emergencies to reach the global target of 4% and the additional contribution of EUR 26 million granted by the budgetary authorities, **an amount of EUR 1 015 000 has been added to the current HIP.**

This additional contribution will be used to support activities that enable safe access to quality education for boys and girls in ongoing conflicts, complex emergencies, other situations of violence and early recovery phases. Furthermore, it may support longer-term education activities in protracted crises and in refugee/IDP camps, as well as actions targeting transition to formal education systems.

In spite of the increased recognition of the important role that education may play for children and young people affected by crises, education in emergencies remains one of the least funded humanitarian sectors. For boys and girls affected by crises, safe access to education can be lifesaving, protecting them from external threats, giving them a sense of normalcy, teaching them important life skills, strengthening their resilience and restoring their hope for a better life. As protracted crises in the world are becoming more prominent there is a risk of creating a "lost generation" if there is not investment in education in emergency at an early stage.

1. CONTEXT

This HIP covers the response to humanitarian needs as well as disaster preparedness, risk reduction and resilience activities supporting actions at country level as well as regional thematic initiatives in South America. Regarding response to crises, this HIP focuses largely on the armed conflict in Colombia and its spill over in Ecuador and Venezuela. It has also the potential for response to new crises in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela. These countries, which have been included because of their high exposure and vulnerability to natural disasters and limited capacity to cope, will be also the focus for disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and resilience.

Man-made disasters

Colombia

Conflict in Colombia has been on-going for over 50 years and has affected millions of people such as the 6.2 million IDPs and caused more than 220 000 deaths¹. Colombia

¹ Colombian Unit for the Attention and Rehabilitation of Victims (UARIV), 2015

continues to be a forgotten crisis, reflected in the limited international attention to its humanitarian crisis and low funding for humanitarian actions. DG ECHO's Integrated Analysis Framework for 2015-2016 identified high humanitarian needs in the country, with very high exposure and vulnerability.

The conflict continues to cause 150 000 to 200 000 displaced people per year, including people fleeing to Ecuador and Venezuela with 950 and 150 new people in need of international protection per month respectively². With the peace talks in Havana and the unilateral declaration of a ceasefire by the FARC³ in December 2014, displacement and armed combats had decreased, but since May 2015, hostilities resumed and the situation of violence linked to the conflict has increased again and returned to 2012 levels, before the peace negotiation started. The humanitarian consequences of the conflict have not decreased but have changed shape: increasing threats, extortion and confinement of communities whose mobility and access to basic services are severely restricted. As an example, more than 0.5 million people have suffered from restriction to basic services in 2014⁴. While FARC is trying to ensure social, economic and political control of their areas, other armed groups such as ELN⁵, post-demobilisation groups, etc. continue to generate humanitarian needs.

There is concern about the situation of the refugees in Venezuela and Ecuador, with lower recognition rates in Ecuador and repatriation of Colombians from Venezuela. Signature of a peace agreement between FARC and Government would likely not end the conflict in the short term, as new armed groups may fight for control of territory and illegal economic resources traditionally controlled by FARC. Peace negotiations involve only two parties to the conflict, so far excluding groups such as ELN, EPL and post-mobilization armed groups. Although it is highly possible that the agreement will have a positive impact in many areas, prospects are that humanitarian needs will persist during 2016.

Venezuela

In Venezuela, apart from the spill-over of the Colombia conflict, high levels of violence are recorded. Over 25 000 people were murdered in 2014 alone⁶, making Venezuela the second most violent country in the world. In 2014, the deterioration of the social and economic situation accelerated further with the steep fall in oil prices. This has a severe impact not only on security, but also on access to food and provision of basic services, notably health. This worrying trend, together with the diminished response capacities in the country, means that risk of civil unrest and major disaster continue to increase.

Natural disasters

² UNHCR Ecuador and Venezuela, 2014

³ Spanish Acronym for Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia), main guerrilla group in Colombia.

⁴ OCHA Colombia, 2014

⁵ Ejército de Liberación Nacional or National Liberation Army, guerrilla group in Colombia.

⁶ Observatorio Venezolano de la Violencia, 2015

South America is highly exposed to disasters linked to natural hazards. Geological events such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Floods) and landslides have a potential impact that can be catastrophic while their occurrence is higher than in other regions. Hydro meteorological events (including massive floods, extreme droughts and cold waves) have been the most significant cause of life and property losses in recent years. For instance, in Bolivia, the 2014 abnormal climate variation and the recurrence of natural hazards increased the existing vulnerabilities. The floods severely impacted large areas of the country, affecting the highlands with flash floods and the lowlands with slow onset floods, severely eroding the livelihoods of the most vulnerable. In 2015 a new episode of El Niño Phenomenon has been identified and it is foreseen to affect severely most of South American countries at least until the first half of 2016.

Medium-scale disasters are on the rise in these countries. This increase is due to various factors such as climate change and acute climate variation, increased vulnerability of the population triggered by unplanned urban expansion (over 80% of the population live in urban areas), and the uprooting of indigenous populations who are forced to abandon their traditional livelihoods due to the destruction of their environment and increasingly unpredictable climate patterns.

Vulnerability to natural hazards is exacerbated by significant inequality. Relatively good macroeconomic data and increased levels of human development⁷ mask large pockets of extreme poverty leading to exclusion, vulnerability and low local capacities.

Given the socio-economic conditions and vulnerabilities described above, the losses and destruction generated by natural hazards entail significant negative consequences for the populations concerned, whose resilience is low.

ECHO's Integrated Analysis Framework for 2015-2016 identified in the overall rating high humanitarian needs for Colombia (very high vulnerability of population affected by armed conflict), and moderate humanitarian needs in Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela. The vulnerability of the population affected by the crisis is assessed to be high for all the countries and very high for the case of drought in Northern Colombia.

⁷ HDI of the countries are ranked as High Human Development (Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia) or Medium Human Development (Paraguay, Bolivia)

2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

1) *Affected people/ potential beneficiaries:*

Man-made disasters

Colombian conflict

Assistance will be focused on the main vulnerable groups affected by the consequences of the conflict violence and without sufficient access to government assistance:

- Recently displaced populations in Colombia and asylum seekers in neighbouring countries.
- People living in areas with presence of non-state armed groups and suffering from confinement, restrictions of mobility and access to basic services, extortion, violence, forced recruitment, etc.

Among these groups, a differential approach needs to be taken considering specific vulnerabilities of gender, age and ethnicity. Women are more exposed to sexual violence, single headed families suffer more severely the consequences of displacement, children and youth are prone to forced recruitment, Afro Colombian and indigenous are by far the main ethnic groups most affected by the conflict (52% and 45% of these groups in Colombia respectively live in conflict affected areas⁸).

Considering that 80% of natural disasters occur in municipalities already affected by the conflict, special attention will be paid to double affectation (natural and man-made), as well as to the victims of environmental disasters originated by the armed conflict and attacks to infrastructure if they generate humanitarian consequences on the population.

Under this HIP, emergency assistance is expected to be provided to 60 000 people in Colombia (IDPs displaced for less than six months) and 50 000 refugees in Ecuador and Venezuela. Early recovery and protection assistance will benefit 40 000 people who are confined or at risk of displacement.

Geographic priorities are flexible, as the location of the conflict is dynamic and the humanitarian needs evolve accordingly. Although the main humanitarian needs, gaps and priorities are mapped in the Strategic Response Plan defined by the Humanitarian Country Team, attention is to be paid also to areas mainly affected by confinement and restrictions of mobility with limited quantitative information available.

Natural Disasters

The countries mentioned in section 1 are all disaster-prone. The number of disasters, their location, magnitude, and humanitarian impact (affected people/potential beneficiaries) in 2016 are unpredictable. ECHO could adapt this HIP and increase its total amount in order to respond to natural hazards which might occur in the region in the period 2016/2017 (with due consideration to the humanitarian impact and needs, national/local capacities to respond and the international humanitarian response).

Disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and resilience

⁸ OCHA 2015

Population most in need of humanitarian assistance has normally been the poorest and most vulnerable, located in both urban, peri-urban and rural areas, not having regular access to basic services (water and sanitation, health infrastructure, etc.) provided by national and/or local institutions. This population's vulnerability tends to increase after each event, rendering them in need of humanitarian assistance.

Support is needed for communities vulnerable to adverse events and local institutions in order to increase their resilience and enhance their preparedness. Where local/national response capacity is overwhelmed or significant gaps exist in the coverage of emergency humanitarian needs, relief assistance for the most vulnerable could be envisaged. ECHO will advocate to the extent possible for sustainable solutions, promoting disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience building with national and local authorities as well as with EU Delegations and other development actors. It is estimated that around 1 000 000 direct beneficiaries will be targeted in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela.

2. Description of the most acute humanitarian needs

Colombian conflict

The main humanitarian needs are related to protection, while the needs for other sectors can differ according to the geographical location, vulnerable group in terms of gender, age and ethnicity or the type of affectation by the conflict (Displaced, confined community, etc.). In this sense, it is important that all actions integrate protection either as a specific sector or integrated in others.

Disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction, resilience

In 2014, an assessment of needs in terms of disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and resilience was done jointly by ECHO, its partners and national Disaster Risk Management (DRM) systems. For each country, as well as for the region, a document has been developed which analyses the situation in terms of hazards, vulnerabilities, capacities and priorities at geographical and thematic level. They are available on the ISDR Wiki site⁹.

Lessons learned from the repeated and recurrent disasters in South America and from the implementation of previous DIPECHO Action Plans in the region have confirmed the need to put in place effective and efficient early warning systems, enforce building codes, prepare communities to react in the first hours of a disaster, train people, organise awareness campaigns, mitigate the impact of disasters and carry out advocacy towards all relevant stakeholders. In most of the countries where DRM is being decentralised to municipalities and sub-national institutions, institutional capacities need to be strengthened at these levels to enable them to design appropriate emergency and DRR plans as well as to access public resources to make them feasible and sustainable.

⁹ International Strategy for the Reduction of Disasters. For further information please refer to Technical Annex.

3. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

1) *National / local response and involvement*

Colombian conflict

Colombia has one of the most developed legal and institutional frameworks for responding to internal displacement, currently organized under Law 1448 of 2011, also known as the Victims' and Land Restitution Law. The Government recognizes an internal armed conflict with guerrilla forces but not with other actors, e.g. post-demobilization armed groups that the Government classifies as BACRIM (*Bandas Criminales* - criminal bands). The Victims' Law establishes clearly the responsibilities of State and local authorities in the provision of humanitarian aid to the victims of the conflict, but capacities are not sufficient to cover all the needs. This is recognized by the authorities themselves. Assistance to the victims of the conflict depends primarily on the municipalities, which lack capacities and resources, and are often affected by considerable levels of corruption. Local and national institutions frequently lack access to areas controlled by non-state armed groups, where only humanitarian organizations are able to open the humanitarian space and assist communities.

The main institution in charge of the attention to conflict victims, mandated to react when the municipal capacities are overwhelmed, is the National Victims' Unit (UARIV). Since its creation in 2012, UARIV has significantly increased its capacity to respond but there are still important gaps to cover mainly in remote areas with limited access.

Disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction, resilience

There is increasing awareness of the importance of DRR in the region, with new policies and DRR laws and regulations being developed in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela. However, local communities in disaster prone areas are still exposed to risk, and often lack comprehensive support after emergencies. Institutions involved in DRR/disaster management have insufficient technical capacities (know-how) and/or resources, and do not receive adequate support from their governments.

In most countries, there is also an important window of opportunity to strengthen institutional and community resilience with actions implemented after disaster events, so ECHO will carefully analyse proposals that look at improving both institutional and community resilience focusing in specific areas recently affected by an emergency.

ECHO has been supporting institutionalization of laws, regulations, protocols, and mechanisms at national level with successful results, but the implementation of these new tools is still far from sufficient at local level. Disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and resilience activities will focus on rural, urban and peri-urban communities in disaster prone areas and on institutions involved in disaster risk reduction/ DRM¹⁰. In

¹⁰ Both at National and Local levels, with focus depending on the degree of decentralization of each country, and not only focusing on Response Institutions, but also supporting efforts of other sector

2016-2017, actions will be on country-specific initiatives. Furthermore, targeted actions are envisaged to increase preparedness of the most vulnerable to less recurrent disasters but with a potentially disastrous human impact such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis and GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Floods) as well as imminent threats as El Niño Phenomenon. This will complement the 2015-2016 action plan. Priority will be given to those communities with the highest risk indicators and the lowest coping capacities, which are most exposed to these kinds of natural events and also to institutions responsible for DRM in need of technical support. New areas and populations will be targeted, although in some cases consolidation of previous actions may be considered.

2) *International Humanitarian Response*

Colombian conflict

The general trend is a decrease of humanitarian funds in Colombia despite persistence of the needs. In 2014, the international community contributed USD 86 million to respond to humanitarian needs in Colombia (according to 4W information system), reaching 49% of the amount required (USD 177 million) to meet the estimated needs in 2014. In terms of geographical distribution, the Pacific coast, as in previous years, continues to receive most of the humanitarian funds. Meanwhile, departments in eastern Colombia, such as Meta, Guaviare, Caquetá and Arauca have the largest gaps in humanitarian response, as estimated by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in its Humanitarian Needs Overview for 2014. To respond to humanitarian needs in 2015, the HCT estimates that USD 136.1 million is required (up to June 2015, Colombia had received approximately 46% of the estimated needed resources). Main humanitarian donors are the USA, the Commission, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada, Spain and Norway. Some of these resources are channeled through United Nations emergency pooled funds. ECHO chairs and leads the Humanitarian Donor Group in Colombia.

International humanitarian aid is coordinated through the Humanitarian Country Team and planned through the Strategic Response Plan (SRP), which is developed under the guidance of OCHA and with the contribution of the main humanitarian stakeholders.

Disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction, resilience

The main donors funding DRR in the region are OFDA/USAID, COSUDE (Swiss Cooperation), AECID (Spanish Cooperation), GIZ (German Cooperation), World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), JICA (Japanese Cooperation) and Belgian Cooperation. The funds are often channelled directly through governments and public institutions, but also through NGOs and UN agencies. There are also private initiatives, such as that funded by Zurich Alliance to improve Early Warning Systems in the region.

3) *Constraints and ECHO response capacity*

In the targeted countries, social conflicts, political instability as well as criminal violence are of concern, limiting access particularly in Colombia and Venezuela. In some areas,

ministries and institutions forming part of the National System, which have DRM priorities and responsibilities.

frequent heavy rainfall, floods and other hazards may result in the isolation of some remote communities for relatively long periods of time, affecting the normal development of activities.

In Colombia, security problems are an issue in areas affected by the conflict, where access is frequently problematic as well as along borders between countries. Access/humanitarian space is limited due to prevailing insecurity in part of the rural conflict areas and marginal urban zones. Nonetheless, humanitarian organizations financed by ECHO have an appropriate level of acceptance and respect by the parties of the conflict. Access to the civilian population in areas in which the conflict is most acute may become difficult and usually depends on local commanders.

4) *Envisaged ECHO response and expected results of humanitarian aid interventions*

During the implementation of this HIP, special attention will be given to relevant aspects related to migration and displacement, advocacy, international humanitarian law and humanitarian access.

Colombia conflict

ECHO strategy aims to fill the gaps in the provision of humanitarian assistance to victims of the conflict, with emphasis on recently displaced people and conflict-affected vulnerable communities (e.g. restrictions of access to basic goods and services, forced recruitment, sex and gender based violence etc.) as well as to those who have fled to neighbouring countries.

While the main component of ECHO operations in Colombia is to respond to the immediate humanitarian needs provoked by the conflict which are not likely to decrease in the short term, it is also important to reinforce local capacities and link with long term peace-building efforts by promoting the use of humanitarian experience as a baseline in conflict affected areas.

Colombia is highly disaster-prone and statistically 80% of disasters occur in conflict affected municipalities, where vulnerabilities are higher and access is often limited for local and national emergency response mechanisms. Disaster risk reduction should be integrated when possible and pertinent in all ECHO operations.

ECHO will continue advocacy and coordination, seeking to enhance official assistance to affected populations. ECHO will continue its active engagement in the Humanitarian Donor Group and Humanitarian Country Team and will work with mandated institutions to articulate efforts and raise awareness about victims' rights to Government assistance.

Disaster Preparedness, disaster risk reduction, resilience

Priority will be given to:

- Hydro-meteorological hazards related to the "El Nino" phenomenon: Floods (Ecuador and Peru), storms and hurricane winds (Paraguay), droughts (Colombia and Venezuela) and extreme temperatures (Peru and Bolivia).

- Geologic/seismic hazards: volcanic eruptions, earthquakes/tsunamis, landslides, and GLOF (Glacier Lake Outburst Floods) will be also considered as a priority in Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.
- Specific vulnerabilities to hazards of indigenous groups and marginal population in urban settlements will be considered as a priority in Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela. In Colombia, additional priority will be given to population whose vulnerability to natural hazards is worsened by the conflict.

The expected results of the interventions are:

- Better prepared communities and strengthened local, regional and national institutions to face disasters; thus reducing the vulnerability of the most vulnerable.
- Wider awareness and advocacy regarding the benefits of adopting risk reduction approaches to disaster management.

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. HCT/Clusters) and to allocate resources to foster the ITA roll-out.

Partners are encouraged to improve and apply comprehensive approaches towards improving resilience and linking relief with rehabilitation and development (LRRD) using other EU Delegation and Member States' financing mechanisms and opportunities, as in Bolivia where ECHO/EU Delegation dialogue has started to produce joint needs analysis and has foreseen potential thematic or geographical areas mutually prioritized.

In contexts where the size of the operation is relatively small in terms of budget allocation, support may be envisaged for designing and advocating for innovative responses which could be replicated by local authorities and communities, triggering and accompanying local and national actions.

ECHO will provide further support to meet the mounting needs of children in conflict affected contexts that are out of school or risk education disruption. Within this HIP project addressing education and child protection will be funded. ECHO will favour education in emergency projects in areas where the % of out-of-school children is particularly high, there are grave child protection concerns and where other sources of funding available are limited. Complementarity and synergies with other EU services and funding instruments will be sought. In addition, complementarity and synergies with funding provided by the Global Partnership for Education is encouraged.

Incorporate contingencies. "Crisis modifiers" should be considered in DRR activities to allow a shift to more "emergency-type" interventions in case of need and when possible, where it can be effective and bring an added value.

All DRR must be inclusive, accountable and result in tangible risk reduction for vulnerable people and communities documented within the action's report and possibly by other source of verification.

Civil protection. DRR stand-alone and integrated projects are encouraged to use EU Civil Protection expertise.

Partners will be expected to ensure full compliance with visibility requirements in accordance with the applicable contractual arrangement as well as with specific visibility requirements agreed-upon in the Single Form, forming an integral part of individual agreements. In particular, this includes prominent display of the EU humanitarian aid visual identity on EU funded project sites, relief items and equipment and the acknowledgement of the funding role of and the partnership with the EU/ECHO through activities such as media outreach and digital communication. Further explanation of visibility requirements can be consulted on the dedicated visibility site: <http://www.echo-visibility.eu/>

4. LRRD, COORDINATION AND TRANSITION

1) Other ECHO interventions

Colombia:

Floods (Supported under SSR): July 2015 – duration 1 year, amount EUR 300 000. Implementation area: Arauca Department.

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

Although EU bilateral funding is being phased out in most South American countries with the exception of Bolivia, Colombia, and Paraguay, thematic lines and sector programmes can be used to increase the sustainability of ECHO initiatives. In several countries, the Non-State Actors Budget Line has started to integrate DRR as one of the priority axes. Regional programmes on Climate Change and Environment can also be a vehicle to upscale good practices set up by ECHO projects.

The amount foreseen for Colombia 2014-2017 is EUR 67 million: EUR 53.6 million local economic development and institutional strengthening, EUR 10 million sustainable trades and investment and EUR 3.4 million for support measures. ECHO is currently actively engaged in a process of reflexion, along with the EEAS, DEVCO, FPI, the EU Delegation in Bogota and other Commission services, on EU support to the implementation of the peace process as negotiations are ongoing between the government of Colombia and the FARC. A Trust Fund is being established by the EU to channel European support to the implementation of the Peace Agreement once it has been signed.

Other donors such as the World Bank, USA, the Interamerican Development Bank (IADB) and the UN also foresee support for this process.

In the case of Bolivia, the EU Delegation and ECHO are working together to increase the resilience of communities and institutions of the Mamore and Beni River watersheds, with a joint analysis of needs, definition of objectives and planning of activities. Given that EU budgetary support has components on river shed management, food security and support to migrant-sending areas, this complementarity increases resilience to natural events.

3) Exit scenarios.

Colombian conflict

An exit from Colombia would be feasible in the medium-term if a peace agreement is reached by the Government and FARC, but this remains uncertain and the violence of the

conflict appears to be unstable and evolving, with periods of high intensity in 2014 and 2015. Even in the case of an agreement, it is expected that in the short term humanitarian needs will persist due to the actions of other illegal armed actors and the assistance gaps that cannot be met through government assistance.

Disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction, resilience

Since its creation, the DIPECHO programme in South America has evolved from community activities towards a more institutional approach in order to create appropriate conditions for the institutionalization of the promoted practices and for their replication. This evolution is more advanced in some countries than in others. The existing vulnerability to disasters together with the existing gaps in DRM capacities makes it advisable to continue the process and consolidate the work done, specifically in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela, focusing particularly on the implementation at local and community level of new mechanisms and tools to enhance preparedness and resilience. In other words, LRRD is done directly through national institutions and institutional preparedness and response capacities need to be strengthened at all levels (national and local), taking advantage of the different degrees of decentralization of each country.

While ECHO DRR programming has already phased out from Argentina, Brazil and Chile, it will still take a time to exit from the other countries due to their geographical diversity, which means that there are a great variety of hazards and risks which have not been properly addressed at local, sub-national or national level. International support remains necessary to accompany this process of upscaling local and community based practices to the institutional level and capitalize on the efforts carried out so far. ECHO disaster risk reduction and resilience actions - despite their small size - have a significant triggering impact on the process of developing DRR and resilience at national and regional level, and provide an important forum for interchange of lessons learned and best practices.