

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN SOUTH ASIA¹

AMOUNT: EUR 17 800 000

The full implementation of this version of the HIP is conditional upon the necessary appropriations being made available from the 2016 general budget of the European Union

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

On 9 October three Border Guard posts were attacked in Northern Rakhine State, Myanmar. Since then an army operation has been going on, intensified after further attacks on 12-13 November. Tens of thousands of Rohingya affected by these events (access restrictions preclude a firm evaluation, but it could be as high as 40 000) have crossed into Bangladesh, seeking refuge. They are in acute need of food and other emergency humanitarian assistance: many children are severely malnourished (malnutrition rates in Northern Rakhine State were already above the emergency threshold before this latest episode of violence and regular humanitarian aid has been disrupted since 9 October); shelter and WASH are under considerable stress to cater for the rapidly increasing numbers of new arrivals. Many refugees arrive with only the clothes they have on, hence a need for basic NFIs. Many need medical attention due to exposure to sexual violence, torture and bullet wounds; psychological support is widely needed. Protection concerns are serious. To address the needs of the most vulnerable people affected by these events and having sought refuge in Bangladesh, an amount of EUR 500 000 has been added to this HIP. The response will focus on the provision of protection and multi-sector humanitarian assistance.

Changes made on 27/07/2016

Following MSF's decision refusing funding from EU institutions and Member States, an amount of EUR 700 000 tentatively earmarked for that organisation is moved from the man-made crises specific objective to the natural disasters specific objective. These funds will be added to the response to the humanitarian crisis due to Tropical Cyclone Roanu in Bangladesh, along the lines described in point b) below.

Changes made on 10/06/2016

a) Sri Lanka - Tropical Cyclone Roanu:

Tropical Cyclone Roanu made landfall in Sri Lanka on 17 May 2016, causing loss of life and significant damage to shelter, agriculture and infrastructure. The Government of Sri Lanka estimates that close to 281 000 people living in the cyclone's path were seriously affected.

ECHO's and partners' assessments indicate that multi-sector emergency humanitarian aid is needed for the most vulnerable and most affected families, notably in the operational districts of Gampaha, Colombo and

¹ The countries covered by this HIP are: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives and Sri Lanka. Afghanistan and Pakistan come under a separate HIP.

Kegalle, with emphasis on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), non-food items, food assistance and livelihoods. In order to address emergency needs, EUR 500 000 is added to this HIP.

b) Bangladesh - Tropical Cyclone Roanu

Tropical Cyclone Roanu made landfall in Bangladesh on 21 May 2016. According to the Bangladesh Department of Disaster Management (DDM), 27 people lost their lives and 513 363 people were evacuated prior to the Cyclone making landfall. An estimated 1.3 million people were affected in 18 districts with seven districts severely affected (Bhola, Barguna, Pathukhali, Lakshmipur, Noakhali, Chittagong and Cox Bazar). According to the Joint Needs Assessment phase I completed on 26 May 2016, 23 940 homes were completely destroyed and 216 771 people were displaced in the seven worst affected districts. Of the 1.3 million people affected it is estimated that 33% (432 000 people) are in need of humanitarian assistance.

An allocation of EUR 2 000 000 is added to this HIP to meet urgent needs of vulnerable populations in areas severely affected by Cyclone Roanu, and particularly people living in hard-to-reach locations or who may not otherwise benefit from assistance. ECHO's and partners' assessments indicate that multi-sector emergency humanitarian aid is needed with urgent needs for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), non-food items, food assistance and shelter.

c) For Bangladesh, due to the high level of humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities among the Rohingya population, an amount of EUR 1 500 000 is moved from the natural disasters specific objective to man made crises specific objective. This is an internal shift of funds and does not have any impact on the availability of funds under point b) above.

1. CONTEXT

This HIP covers the response to humanitarian needs caused by natural or man-made disasters. It also addresses disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and resilience activities in South Asia. The HIP focuses on Bangladesh, and Nepal, with the potential for interventions to new disasters also in Bhutan, India, Sri Lanka and Maldives. ECHO is exiting from existing programmes in India. As regards disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and resilience activities, the focus will be on targeted actions in Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan, as well as possible support to regional initiatives.

South Asia is a densely populated region, with close to 1.5 billion people. The region is prone to a variety of natural disasters; has rapid urbanization rates and is also the theatre of a number of internal conflicts and political volatility. The impact of disasters is not felt uniformly. The poorest and marginalised are typically the worst affected as they tend to live in vulnerable areas and have low coping mechanisms to deal with the impact of disasters. Demographic pressure, poor urban planning, settlements in high-risk areas and reduced livelihood options result in high vulnerability to more frequent, more intense and more unpredictable disasters. Urban communities are increasingly at risk.

About 60% (27.5 million) of the world's children suffering from Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) live in countries covered by this HIP.

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh ranks 142th in the Human Development Index (HDI) with 0.558 points. According to ECHO's Integrated Analysis Framework for 2015-16 moderate humanitarian needs have been identified for Bangladesh. However, the vulnerability of the population affected by the crises is assessed to be very high. Bangladesh is one of the Flagship Countries under the EU Resilience Action Plan.

The Rohingya crisis is classified by ECHO² as a forgotten crisis. The situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) is also classified as a forgotten crisis. The formal conflict ended with the signing of the 1997 CHT Peace Accord. However, the accord has not yet been fully implemented. Food insecurity is another key concern.

BHUTAN

Bhutan is located in one of the most seismically active zones in the world. There is serious threat from Glacial Lake Outburst Flood in the country which has more than twenty-five such lakes identified. Landslides and flash floods are recurrent and cause extensive damages during the monsoon season. Vulnerability is further increased by unsafe construction practices, rapid urbanization pressure on land and settlements, lack of awareness, environmental degradation and lack of preparedness planning.

NEPAL

Nepal ranks 145th in the HDI, with 0.540 points. According to the Integrated Analysis Framework for 2015-16 high humanitarian needs have been identified in Nepal. The vulnerability of the population affected by crises is assessed to be very high. The country faces frequent natural disasters that affect lives, livelihoods and infrastructures. Every year, around 1 000 people are killed by landslides and floods during the monsoon season. Nepal is one of the Flagship Countries under the EU Resilience Action Plan.

The central part of Nepal was hit by a major earthquake of magnitude 7.8 on 25 April 2015 and by ensuing aftershocks. Over 8 700 people were killed, more than 22 000 people were injured and almost 1 million public and private buildings have been destroyed with over 1.1 million children not having permanent learning spaces. Roughly 750 000 houses were damaged or destroyed, leading to widespread social vulnerability. Access to local markets and essential services is very limited in the most affected and remote rural areas.

NATURAL DISASTERS

All the countries of South Asia are extremely prone to various natural disasters (cyclones, floods, earthquakes, tsunami, landslides and drought). Flooding associated with the monsoon is an annual event in different parts of the region. While National Governments initial response is usually rapid and effective in terms of search-and-rescue, humanitarian gaps in the post disaster phase frequently remain unaddressed.

The most vulnerable households are usually the most affected, particularly in remote regions and in situations where high frequency of natural disasters combines with the consequences of conflicts and violence. Such circumstances result in very low coping capacities of the most fragile and marginalized population. Poverty, lack of assets and poor access to the government schemes and entitlements related to health, food and livelihood have a multiplier effect on the impact of natural disaster on those at the lowest level of the caste system (Dalit, scheduled tribes, indigenous tribes, minorities, etc.). Addressing gaps in relief operations and barriers to access to social schemes as well as resilience building represent the value added that the Commission can play in natural disasters in the region.

2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

1) Affected people/ potential beneficiaries:

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Rohingya refugees and host communities – it is estimated that over 250 000 Rohingya refugees live in Bangladesh in official camps and unofficial camps. Approximately 45 000 of them live in two informal settlements- the Kutupalong Makeshift Camp and Leda Site.

² European Commission's Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection.

Chittagong Hill Tracts – The 30 000 of the most vulnerable communities live in remote areas of Thanchi and Sajek.

Water-logging: chronic water-logging impacts the livelihoods of around 1 million people every year in the districts of Satkhira and Jessore in Khulna Division.

NEPAL

The UN appeal estimated that 2.8 million people have been affected in Nepal by the Earthquake on 25 April 2015. About 2.2 million people are estimated to have lost their homes. 864 000 people live below the poverty line and constitute the priority for humanitarian interventions. The disaster is essentially a rural one, affecting the already vulnerable population in remote and hard to reach mountainous areas. Humanitarian needs are still largely unmet in the most inaccessible areas where isolated communities may face two monsoons and two winters before full recovery can take place.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, RESILIENCE

The Commission focuses primarily on building preparedness and risk reduction in the most vulnerable communities with limited coping capacities in both rural and high risk urban areas. When possible, DRR/DP and resilience building are also mainstreamed in humanitarian interventions. Those potential beneficiaries are likely to be remote communities excluded from mainstream safety nets, risk reduction or preparedness programmes. The Commission emphasises systematic focus on the inclusion of women, children, the elderly, people living with disabilities and people subject to different kind of discrimination (Dalit, scheduled tribes, indigenous tribes, minorities, etc.).

2) Description of the most acute humanitarian needs (by sector).

BANGLADESH

Rohingya refugees and host communities: protection is a core need due to absence of legal status for new refugees. GAM rates in the official and makeshift camps, and host communities, have been above 15% since 2010. Limited access to livelihood opportunities compounds the under-nutrition status of many refugees, whose conditions are aggravated by limited access to water, sanitation and basic health services. In Kutupalong, temporary shelter, repair/rebuilding works and upgrading of NFI/roofing kits are urgently needed.

Chittagong Hill Tracts: 77% of all households are reported to have poor or borderline food consumption practices. Protection is also a major issue, as access to legal services for victims of violence remains limited.

Waterlogging: Recurrent cycles of water-logging and degradation of livelihoods have negatively impacted the nutrition status of the most vulnerable. Around 31 percent of the 1.8 million people living in Satkhira and Jessore are classified in the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) as chronic food insecure (level 3 or worse). Food security data indicates that 60 % of households in Satkhira are moderately or severely food insecure.

NEPAL

Shelter: 864 000 people in remote areas are in immediate need of shelter support. The rebuilding or repair of schools and health facilities constitutes an urgent need.

Livelihoods/food assistance: the earthquakes caused loss of livelihood assets and economic opportunities. Over one million people require support to ensure food security and livelihood recovery.

WASH: The destruction of water and sanitation systems across 14 districts has left around 1.1 million people without access to safe water sources.

Logistics: not all communities have received assistance due to transport challenges. Supplies and materials need to be delivered to the remoter areas.

Protection: the most vulnerable and those more exposed to exclusion or the risk of trafficking require support.

In addition to the effects of the earthquakes, Nepal suffers every year from recurrent small to medium-scale disasters, such as floods and landslides, which weaken the coping capacity of communities, make them more vulnerable and keep them in a "poverty trap".

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, RESILIENCE

DRR, preparedness and contingency planning should be appropriately factored into all humanitarian assistance to ensure sustainability, cost effectiveness and to build local capacities.

The Commission support to build local and national capacities gives priority to the development and adoption of DP/DRR/Resilience models that are compatible with local institutional contexts. Proven methodologies should be integrated into national, sub-national and local development plans with a view to further replication, scaling-up and sustainability. A concrete contribution to the implementation of the Resilience Agenda is to be pursued, notably in the EU Resilience Flagship countries, namely Bangladesh and Nepal.

3. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

1) National / local response and involvement

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In 2014, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) presented a strategy on "undocumented Myanmar nationals", acknowledging the humanitarian needs of the undocumented Rohingya refugees, and outlining a plan to register them. However, limited progress has been achieved so far. Ensuring the full roll out and implementation of the strategy remains a challenge.

The GoB has demonstrated the effectiveness of its own disaster preparedness and usually provides assistance to those affected by natural disasters. However, needs frequently exceed the assistance offered. In case of displacement, water, sanitation and hygiene aspects are often overlooked.

The impact of interventions to address under-nutrition is hampered by restrictions on the importation of RUTF³. Local level capacity in nutrition is limited and measures for integrating nutrition into the health system have not been implemented yet at local level.

A national task force comprising authorities and development partners has been established to develop an action plan to address the waterlogging in the South-West from 2015 onwards. A UN-led resilience programme is currently under implementation. Similarly, in the CHT a UN programmatic framework for support to the CHT 2015-2020 is in the process of being rolled out.

NEPAL

On 25 April 2015, the Government of Nepal (GoN) declared a State of Emergency and requested international assistance following the earthquake. The GoN has announced response of EUR 670 million including EUR 453 million for housing for this fiscal year (2015-2016). The government plans to provide EUR 1 800 to those whose house was fully damaged. Provision of soft loans to rural households of up to EUR 13 500 is foreseen. Similarly, 50 000 young people will be able to benefit from skill development programmes. Moreover, in the recovery and reconstruction phase the principle of Build Back Better (BBB) should be followed.

³ Ready to Use Therapeutic Food for treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, RESILIENCE

South Asian governments are developing legal frameworks and setting up dedicated national platforms, in accordance with their commitment to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015. At regional level, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's (SAARC) Disaster Management Centre was set up as a regional unit in Delhi, in 2006; however, it is now in review process.

While government agencies have developed national strategies that address DP/DRR, generally the tools, funding or mechanisms to enforce and implement these are insufficient. The implementation of the national DRR frameworks is often hampered by lack of skilled human resources and an inadequate allocation of financial resources, and in some cases also by conflict or political instability.

South Asian governments' capacities to implement effective DRR programmes require further strengthening and are mostly response/relief oriented with a strong need of sound preparedness and prevention mechanisms.

2) International Humanitarian Response

BANGLADESH

The coordination mechanism has been improved with the activation of an informal cluster system in 2012 and the reconvening of the HCTT⁴ in June 2015. However, timeliness of response, identification of gaps, action planning and information management systems need to be reinforced.

Along with the EU development funds, the US, Sweden and Australia support the official Rohingya refugee camps and the host communities. The US provides support also in Kutupalong and Leda. In the south-western coastal region, the Commission, DFID and UNDP are supporting resilience building programmes to address water-logging in order to build livelihoods and address underlying causes of vulnerability.

NEPAL

Massive response to the earthquakes came from several countries. According to the Financial Tracking System the top five donors are: a) Private individuals and organizations, b) United States, c) Norway, d) United Kingdom, and e) China. India as well contributed substantially to the emergency phase.

The UN Flash Appeal called for USD 422 million while it was 47% funded as of July 2015.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, RESILIENCE

DRR is a focus for several donors, UN agencies and INGOs. Efforts are mainly directed at central and sub-national levels, developing national strategies and response capacities, generally through a top-down approach with insufficient emphasis on the role of communities and local stakeholders. Donor coordination is often weak, translating into limited synergies and complementarities. National mechanisms for coordination of DRR stakeholders are often insufficient. Nevertheless, in recent years a number of encouraging national initiatives have been launched, such as the NRRC⁵ in Nepal, involving important international players under the leadership of government bodies.

3) Constraints and ECHO response capacity

BANGLADESH

Access is possible after a natural disaster. Project implementation requires the approval of the government. The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) does not approve external interventions in all cases. Socio-political strife can hamper access to certain locations and physical access to areas like the

⁴ Humanitarian Country Task Team.

⁵ National Risk Reduction Consortium.

coastal belt and CHT, can be logistically challenging. In some areas of CHT, access for international staff is restricted.

Humanitarian activities in Cox's Bazar are largely limited to life-saving activities. The space for an increased focus on Cox's Bazar has opened up now with the Government's strategy on Rohingya. Provision of humanitarian assistance to unregistered Rohingya remains challenging.

NEPAL

The Commission provided EUR 12 million in humanitarian assistance in 2015. The Union Civil Protection Mechanism was also activated with 16 Member States offering assistance and ECHO supported transport costs for a total of EUR 4 million under the mechanism.

Harsh winter conditions make early recovery and reconstruction efforts extremely difficult in the high hills and mountain areas. VAT and import taxes constraints remain a challenge in terms of ensuring a timely response.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, RESILIENCE

In general, absorption and technical capacities remain limited. Sustainability, replication and institutionalization remain a challenge. Natural disasters occurring in targeted areas, or security issues, may temporarily limit implementation capacity.

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.

Partners must demonstrate that they have undertaken coordinated needs assessments and response analysis. The Commission may provide specific support to enhance the quality of these processes, at country or regional level. Ensuring gender and age mainstreaming is essential. Women, girls, boys, men and the elderly are affected by crises in different ways and the assistance needs to be adapted to their specific needs; disenfranchising of certain groups (including women) is identified among the causes of malnutrition. Advocacy efforts for inclusion and quality improvements in service delivery are a key element of interventions. Attention to protection risks and needs of vulnerable populations post disaster should be given due consideration. Where possible, for example in Nepal, it is vital that a resilience approach is incorporated into the reconstruction process – to reduce vulnerabilities and avoid re-occurrence.

Effective coordination is essential. The Commission supports the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Transformative Agenda (ITA) and encourages partners to demonstrate their engagement in implementing its objectives, to take part in coordination mechanisms (e.g. Humanitarian Country Team/Clusters) and to allocate resources to foster the ITA roll-out.

BANGLADESH

The Commission will support humanitarian response to natural disasters and ensure the mainstreaming of DRR in the response. As Bangladesh is an EU Resilience Flagship Country, the Commission will contribute to a resilience roadmap with the EU, with the objective of integrating risk awareness in every sector of development and in coherence with the Government's 7th 5-year plan. The Commission will support multi-scale and multi-sector resilience actions, aimed at strengthening local capacities to adapt livelihoods and coping mechanisms. The focus will be the water-logged areas of Khulna division, the food-insecure areas of CHT and Cox's Bazar.

Assistance to both the undocumented Rohingya and host communities in Leda and Kutupalong shall be maintained.

Advocacy efforts will be pursued to ensure that stakeholders adhere to humanitarian principles, to safeguard humanitarian space and service provision and to promote durable solutions.

Humanitarian coordination (clusters, cash working group, joint needs assessments, communication in emergencies) within the framework of disaster preparedness and response is vital in Bangladesh.

NEPAL

Significant gaps in the coverage of humanitarian needs persist in the post emergency phase:

Shelter: this could include small construction tools, building and fixing materials, technical guidance on how to build earthquake-resistant houses and build back better.

Livelihood/Food assistance: short term intervention(s) to strengthen food security and early recovery of livelihoods.

WASH: particularly hygiene and sanitation with clean water supply is key to control communicable diseases which even in normal times are high.

Health: emergency health services and referrals may need continued support.

Logistics/Co-ordination: to ensure delivery of assistance to the remotest earthquake affected area.

Protection: will target the most vulnerable, the marginalised and those more exposed to exclusion and risk of trafficking

DRR/Resilience: it is important to systematically factor DRR and the principle of Building Back Better (BBB) in the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase so to enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable earthquake-affected population. Coordination between humanitarian assistance and longer term development cooperation will be important.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, RESILIENCE

Besides promoting integrated and medium term approaches in all humanitarian action as is contextually appropriate, the Commission will support targeted DRR interventions (e.g. Community and School Based DRR, early warning systems, etc.) building on previous cycles of DIPECHO programmes in South Asia whilst contributing to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030, and to the respective national and regional plans.

Special attention will be given to interventions promoting (a) 'fit-for-purpose' standardized DRR models in rural and urban settings with a focus on linking with development processes (b) strengthening local capacities and systems through local organizations and institutions, while ensuring replication and scaling-up of the DP/DRR models (c) dissemination, promotion and replication of good practices based on evidence (d) support and promotion of the implementation of the ISDR⁶Global DRR Campaigns on "Safe Schools and Hospitals" and "Making Cities Resilient" (e) multi-country initiatives that harmonize and consolidate expertise in the field of disaster risk reduction/management.

Partners are expected to actively coordinate at country and field level to create synergies, including through joint initiatives and joint advocacy. They are also expected to harmonize their models and methodologies. Methodologies must be inclusive and culturally appropriate.

The resilience approach goes beyond mere incorporation DRR and preparedness. Actions that strengthen livelihoods and coping capacities whilst reducing risks and vulnerabilities are strongly encouraged.

Climate change cannot be the sole focus of the interventions. When and where relevant, interventions must encompass the impact of climate change on the increasing frequency, intensity and unpredictability of natural hazards. Small scale infrastructure and services, at community level can be included, as well as stock-piling of emergency and relief items, to strengthen the early response capacity of local actors and institutions.

⁶ International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Following the earthquake in Nepal, Bhutan has indicated their wish to explore DRR measures in place in Nepal. ECHO's role may be envisaged in this respect.

Education

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.

Visibility

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

BANGLADESH

The Commission responded to emergencies in Satkhira and to enhance the resilience capacities of the population of Hathya Island (total EUR 1 million). The Commission is also funding innovative approaches to CMAM through ACF.

NEPAL

In addition to the earthquake response, the Commission funded emergency assistance to the victims of the 2014 monsoon floods in 2014 and 2015.

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

BANGLADESH

ECHO and DEVCO have developed a Joint Humanitarian-Development Framework for food security and nutrition interventions post disasters (floods), as part of the Resilience agenda in Bangladesh. In case of major sudden onset disasters, both services will address the impact on food security in parallel with their own funding instruments, in a complementary way. Common assessment and analysis will also be developed for the CHT and water-logged areas. From 2005-2015, the European Union has allocated EUR 70 million to support the implementation of the CHT Peace Accord, with the aim of reducing poverty and promoting peace.

NEPAL

EU and EU Member States overall contributed with over EUR 223 million⁷. This includes an allocation from the EU Development Co-operation Instrument of EUR 16.6 million fast-tracked for budgetary

⁷ As of end of June 2015.

support and a further pledge of EUR 100 million for a state building contract (a budget support operation) as well as EUR 5 million for technical assistance.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, RESILIENCE

Apart from the EU, the main donors for disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction in the region are DFID, the USAID, Japan, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

In line with the EU resilience agenda, ECHO and DEVCO are increasing their collaboration in order to ensure efficient synergies between the Commission's humanitarian portfolios and development programming within the framework of the MIPs⁸ 2014-20.

3) *Other concomitant EU interventions (e.g. IfS)*

BANGLADESH

The European Commission Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2014-2020 prioritises (1) Strengthening Democratic Government and human rights; (2) Food security and nutrition; (3) Education and skills development.

Other programmes managed by the EU Delegation include: (a) Ujibitto Safety Net Program 2013-2019 – EUR 38 million, (b) Protection, essential services and durable solutions for refugees in Bangladesh: programme in support of long-term solutions to the protracted situation in Bangladesh of the Muslim refugees from the northern Rakhine State and enhancement of social cohesion for the vulnerable population in Cox's Bazar– EUR 12.5 million 2008-2014, with an anticipated Phase IV, 2015-2017, EUR 6 million; (c) Supporting local development in the CHT with UNDP; EUR 24 million for the period 2011-2015 bringing the total support to EUR 70 million since 2005; (d) Disaster Preparedness and Management - EUR 13 million has been allocated to UNDP for the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme 2010-2015. It focuses on poverty alleviation through reducing the impact of national disasters and other human induced hazards.

Since 1992, the European Commission - through development cooperation instruments - has also been supporting registered refugees.

NEPAL

ECHO and DEVCO cooperate closely to promote and mainstream DRR in both humanitarian and development aid. The integration of DRR in the priority sectors of education and rural development in the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Nepal should ensure strengthening of national capacities. The "National Strategy for Disaster Management in Nepal" was formulated with DIPECHO support.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, RESILIENCE

The EU has launched an initiative to build a Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) between the EU and developing countries most vulnerable to climate change (LDC⁹ and small island states)..

Additionally, the EU is financing the following regional projects: Support to rural livelihoods and climate change adaptation in the Himalaya (through ICIMOD¹⁰, EUR 10 million, 2012-2017), the EU - South Asia capacity-building for Disaster Risk Management" (with World Bank, EUR 10 million, 2014-2020) and EU support to the South Asia Nutrition Security Initiative (SAFANSI through a World Bank multi-donor trust fund, EUR 7.5 million, 2014-2019).

4) *Exit scenarios.*

BANGLADESH

⁸ Multi-Annual Indicative Programmes.

⁹ Least Developed Countries.

¹⁰ International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.

The EU Resilience Flagship initiative is the main vector of ECHO's exit strategy from non-emergency situations. Its agenda prioritises exit scenarios in two regions, i.e. water-logged areas of Khulna Division and CHT. Both contexts will be supported under the common framework of short and long-term actions, agreed by ECHO, DEVCO and DFID. The exit will only be possible once development funds will take over, most likely from 2017. The coastal belt, islands and Cox's Bazar are the priority areas.

NEPAL

Humanitarian interventions in response to 2015 Earthquake are required through 2016 before exit can be considered.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, RESILIENCE

In 2016, ECHO priority countries for targeted DRR in South Asia will be limited to Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. The exit strategy from India and Sri Lanka initiated in 2014 will be complete by the end of 2016.

It is expected that with an improved institutional framework and relevant regulations South Asian governments will increase their commitment to DP/DRR, in line with the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030. The models and tools developed and consolidated through successive DIPECHO funding cycles, and often acknowledged as relevant and cost-efficient, contribute to improving the resilience of populations at risk through greater preparedness and DRR integration into the development process. External support will remain necessary to consolidate the capacity building of local stakeholders, through the integration of disaster preparedness and mitigation measures into local development.