

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP) AFGHANISTAN, CENTRAL ASIA, IRAN AND PAKISTAN

AMOUNT: EUR 49 450 000

The present Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) was prepared on the basis of financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2017/01000 (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

Second modification 27/09/2017

Since the previous modification of this HIP the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan has further deteriorated due to the increasing intensity of the conflict. More than quarter of a million people have been displaced this year, bringing the total number of Internally Displaced People (IDP) in Afghanistan to 1.75 million. This implies that the number of IDPs projected for the rest of the year, estimated at the time of the last HIP modification, has already been reached in September. The number of civilian casualties for 2017 is also at record high. The most urgent needs remain shelter, food, non-food items, protection and health care. The principal programme for assisting IDPs with these needs is the Emergency Response Mechanism, which is funded by DG ECHO. DG ECHO funded programmes also provide a significant proportion of the emergency surgical care for civilian war casualties.

In order to meet the needs of the newly displaced people and civilian war casualties, a supplementary EUR 5 000 000 is being added to this HIP in view of reaching an additional projected target population of 100 000 people.

First modification 02/06/2017

Since the beginning of the year, there has been a marked deterioration in the security climate inside Afghanistan, with growing numbers of civilian casualties and internally displaced people (IDP) and with increasing numbers of districts under control of opposition groups or in conflict. The spring offensives have created over 130 000 new IDPs, adding to the 1.4 million already displaced and in need of assistance. Also in view of the increasing conflict these displacements are becoming more protracted. The resultant is an estimated doubling of the previously estimated needs, which include shelter, food, Non-food Items (mainly through multi-purpose cash transfers) protection and health care.

In Iran, the government has recently granted access to refugee hosting areas in Sistan/Baluchistan that were previously no-go areas. Assessments have identified over 30 000 vulnerable undocumented refugees, requiring basic needs. Moreover the same assessment has identified a significant number of deportations of people with protection concerns (unaccompanied minors, single females and medical cases) that straddle both sides of the Iran/Afghanistan border. The refugee caseload requires food, NFIs (mainly through multi-purpose cash transfers) and access to health care. In addition the deportees will require protection and psycho-social support.

In order to meet these additional needs in Afghanistan and Iran, a supplementary EUR 7 500 000 is being added to this HIP in view of reaching an additional projected target population of 200 000 people, with the above mentioned support.

In view of the increasing conflict in Afghanistan, the proposed Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) actions were not considered either appropriate or practicable at this stage. The funds will be reallocated to Pakistan in order to assist with a resilience initiative that will accompany ECHO's withdrawal from its nutritional programmes in Sindh province. A small amount will be allocated to Central Asia to support efforts to promote legislative improvements in Tajikistan that are intended to sustain the gains achieved by the DIPECHO programme, as ECHO withdraws from the region.

1. CONTEXT

This Humanitarian Implementation Plan covers Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Central Asia. It is intended to address the needs of vulnerable populations affected by the on-going instability and conflict in Afghanistan and its consequences on neighbouring countries. It also makes provision to improve national and regional capacity to prevent and respond to the effects of natural disasters and climate change.

In Afghanistan, since the withdrawal of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the conflict between Government forces and non-state armed groups has accentuated, resulting in increasing deaths, displacement and vulnerability of civilians and mounting access problems for relief and development agencies. Many crucial transport axes have been cut or become unsafe, and almost 40% of the 398 districts are now controlled or contested by the non-state groups (mainly the Taliban) where the condition of the population is largely unknown. Most of the displaced have moved to the cities, where social services are struggling to cope, leading to increased vulnerability and suffering.

Pakistan hosts some 2.7 million Afghan refugees of which only half are registered and although some have prospered many, notably the undocumented, remain extremely vulnerable. Driven by a mix of various push and pull factors, half a million refugees are expected to repatriate by the end of 2016, with more to come in 2017. Unfortunately they are being subject to considerable harassment and extortion during the return process, which, together with the fact that the high rhythm of returns is overstressing the capacity of the transit and reception services and that many of the return areas are unsafe or inaccessible, is leading to additional vulnerability.

Pakistan also has to contend with 1.5 million of its own citizens that have been displaced by internal conflicts. However, thanks to a reduction in military operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), most of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) are expected to return. Nonetheless, access for humanitarian organisations to populations in need remains complicated by restrictions exacerbated by the backdrop of insecurity, which impedes independent needs assessments and response, particularly in KP, FATA and Baluchistan.

Pakistan has the third largest caseload (3.3 million) of acutely under-nourished children in the world. This results from underlying structural economic and social problems but is accentuated by natural disasters and climate change. To its credit the Government, together with development partners, has now embarked on a programme to tackle this problem, with the hope that humanitarian actions will be able to phase out.

Iran is hosting some 3 million Afghan refugees of which only 951 142 are registered. Iran is providing registered refugees with access to education and to its health insurance schemes, but thousands of undocumented refugees remain vulnerable and in need of assistance. In recent months Iran has shown a willingness to open up its humanitarian space to additional humanitarian partners in order to provide further assistance to refugees but also in a bid to encourage greater burden sharing from the international community.

The five countries of Central Asia - Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have so far been spared the worst consequences of the Afghan conflict but the region is facing destabilizing security threats due to religious extremism and radicalization. A poor economic climate is also restricting growth and development, which threatens to make the sub-region and its population less resilient, notably in the event of natural disasters and climate change.

2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

2.1 Affected people/potential beneficiaries

Afghanistan

Conflict-affected populations: In addition to civilian casualties, access to basic services, especially health care, is restricted for a large number of people as a result of the conflict.

Internally Displaced People: The total caseload of registered IDPs in Afghanistan is around 1.2 million, with a further 245 254 individuals having become displaced in the first half of 2016.

Afghan Returnees: As a result of a number of complex factors, including increased UNHCR cash grants, promises of land, new border controls and an increase in extortion and harassment in Pakistan, there has been a significant increase in returns of both registered and undocumented Afghan refugees from Pakistan. Almost 90 000 registered 124 836 undocumented Afghan refugees and 17 769 deportees returned from Pakistan in the third quarter of 2016. This is in addition to the 852 returnees and 88 404

undocumented Afghan deportees from Iran in July. Thus over half a million people will have returned by the end 2016, with the process set to continue in 2017.

Pakistani refugees in Afghanistan: As a result of the conflict and military operations in the North Waziristan Agency of FATA in Pakistan in the summer of 2014, some 250 000 Pakistani refugees were displaced into Afghanistan.

Disaster affected populations: In 2016, it is estimated that 400 000 people have been affected by natural disasters.

Pakistan

For Pakistan, the focus is on refugees and IDPs and people affected by food insecurity and malnutrition and by natural disasters.

Afghan refugees: Some 1 500 000 are registered and a further 1 200 000 undocumented Afghans are estimated to be in the country. A third are estimated to be vulnerable and in need of some form of assistance. It is estimated that in Pakistan alone at least 83 000 new-borns are added to this number every year. Furthermore as a process of repatriation is underway this will create a new specific caseload of returnees.

Internally Displaced People: According to OCHA, over 1.5 million people were displaced by internal conflicts in KP and FATA. The Government of Pakistan (GoP) hopes that all will have returned by end 2016. However not only are many expected to remain into 2017 (possibly 10-15 %) but those who do return will face vulnerability in their (often devastated) areas of return.

Food and Nutrition: Refugees, IDPs and disaster affected populations are prone to food insecurity and malnutrition. The challenge of tackling structural malnutrition, particularly in Sindh and Baluchistan will be taken on by the Government with the support of development donors. However, humanitarian assistance may be required to tackle pockets of severe acute malnutrition above emergency levels that may persist, or arise amongst, vulnerable, conflict or disaster affected populations that are outside the remit of government programmes.

Communities affected by natural disasters: The main effects of the 2015 earthquake have been dealt with and drought mitigating measures will now be taken over by government or other donors. However, the Pakistani and refugee population remain prone to the effects of regular natural disasters, which require urgent relief.

Children and Youth: Pakistan still has the world's second highest number of out-of-school children. Among refugees 64% of the population is under the age of 24, the majority of whom have received little or no formal education. Access to education in conflict affected areas is even more difficult, particularly for girls, as parents fear for their safety both on the way to, and at, school. Those who do not attend school face protection issues. Girls may be at greater risk of being subjected to early or forced marriage. Boys may also be withdrawn from school in order to support the family financially, thus exposing them to all the hazards related to child labour.

Iran

Iran is currently hosting 951 142 documented Afghan refugees (Amayesh card holders), 620 000 Iranian visa holders (legal economic migrants), and between 2 and 3 million undocumented Afghans mostly living in peri-urban settings. Around 800 000 Afghans of this caseload are severely vulnerable and in need of assistance.

Central Asia

The beneficiaries are vulnerable communities of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan living in areas exposed to natural, biological and environmental hazards. Indirectly, the whole population of Central Asia will benefit from the strengthened coordination and preparedness at regional and country level.

2.2 Description of the most acute humanitarian needs

Afghanistan

Multi-sector humanitarian needs: The unplanned mass movement of people due to the insecurity or natural disasters requires a multi-sector rapid response, which includes the following sectors: food assistance or cash grants, shelter, non-food items (NFIs) and WASH.

Health and Nutrition: Access to adequate medical assistance, including psychological first aid and mental health follow-up, in particular for the war-wounded, is a priority need. Basic health care delivery is required in areas where the provision of health services is disrupted due to conflict. Malnutrition, particularly among women and children, is a significant consequence of the crisis, resulting, inter alia, from food insecurity and a lack of adequate access to safe drinking water.

Logistics: Distance and increasing insecurity on the roads implies a need for dedicated humanitarian air support.

Protection: Assistance is required for the increasing number of conflict affected people and for returning refugees. This includes: the provision of psychological first aid to recognize stress factors, addressing Gender-based violence (GBV) and advocacy for the upholding of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

Coordination and information management: In order to enhance humanitarian coordination, there is a need for systematic and timely needs assessments, data collection, analysis, presentation, and dissemination and advocacy, both general and in specific sectors.

Pakistan

Care and maintenance and repatriation support for refugees: The majority of the 2.7 million refugees in Pakistan have largely blended into local communities rather than living in camps. Some 500 000 Afghans are expected to have repatriated in 2016 and the process is expected to continue in 2017 at a similar rate. The main assistance required is

support for the return process, notably protection and access to health care. The remaining population will require on-going support for care and maintenance.

Internally Displaced People: Despite the government's aspirations it is expected that several thousand IDPs currently in the North West Pakistan will not be able to return home by end 2016. The most vulnerable of these and their host communities will require multi-sector support. However, most needs will now transfer to their areas of return where many shelters, wash and health facilities and sources of food and livelihoods will have been destroyed by the conflict. Though much of this will be taken on by the GoP and development donors, acute humanitarian needs for vulnerable returnee groups are certain to transpire.

Nutritional support: This will require: monitoring of nutritional status of refugees, IDP and disaster affected populations outside the remit of government or development donor-supported nutrition programme areas, and eventually, where appropriate, the provision of nutritional supplements and support towards food security, livelihood and WASH.

Coordination and Advocacy: The complex nature of the different crises in Pakistan requires concerted efforts on coordination and the strict adherence and application of humanitarian principles in the humanitarian response. For the phasing out of Sindh actions, strong coordination between emergency and development actors is required.

Education in Emergencies (EiE): Access to education is required for refugees (documented and undocumented) and IDPs - girls as well as boys. However the provision of support for this will have to be considered in the light of the return process.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR): The recurrences of natural hazards compounded by a situation of insecurity, oblige ECHO to systematically consider disaster risk reduction and preparedness actions for vulnerable populations. In keeping with EU and international commitments, priority is firmly placed on strengthening local, national and regional capacities for risk management and preparedness for response.

Iran

The most vulnerable of Afghan refugees require assistance in accessing food, health, sanitation and hygiene, shelter, protection, and education.

Central Asia

DRR: The entire region of Central Asia is highly exposed to natural hazards. The geological characteristic of this area, placed along several fault lines, makes it one of the most seismically active regions in the world. In recent years, climate change has been increasing the frequency and intensity of hydro-meteorological hazards posing higher risks to people, infrastructure and natural resources. Due to its mountainous topography, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan are the two countries in Central Asia facing the highest threat from the impact of climate change. In addition, the Soviet environmentally-neglected industrial practices have left a legacy of radioactive waste and pollution across the region. Capacity to deal with the threats has been lacking but there is growing willingness to build such capacity both in the region and as a region.

3. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

3.1 National / local response and involvement

Afghanistan

The national and local response is restricted by insecurity, limited capacity, weak governance, high staff turnover and an increasing number of districts challenged by armed opposition groups. As the intensity and the complexity of the conflict increases, humanitarian access is becoming more problematic to negotiate and the humanitarian space is shrinking.

Pakistan

The Government of Pakistan (GoP) has proved itself capable of responding to medium-scale disasters by relying heavily on military assets and has regularly declined international intervention for all but major disasters. However and paradoxically, the GoP is claiming that refugee returns are being partly triggered due to the lack of international assistance for refugee care and maintenance. With regard to IDP returns the GoP has promised that it will commit significant own resources to resettle this caseload. National and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities are functional and part of their mandate is to coordinate disaster risk reduction activities.

Iran

Iran has committed considerable own resources to provide for the Afghan refugee caseload and has a dedicated organisation the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) for managing this issue. Iran recently committed itself to open up the national health insurance scheme to documented Afghan refugees on the same basis as its own citizens. In addition, all children irrespective of their legal status have also recently been permitted to enrol in the national education system.

Central Asia

While National DRR platforms exist and considerable progress has been made in improving capacity, the countries in Central Asia still lack adequate legislative framework, technical expertise, and resources to systematically adopt and sustain effective DRR at national and community levels.

3.2 International Humanitarian Response

Afghanistan

The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2016 requested USD 393 million for humanitarian response to prioritised humanitarian needs. After the sudden influx of Afghans, in September a USD 152 million 'Flash Appeal' was launched to cover the newly arisen needs of the returnees.

Pakistan

The Government of Pakistan has not authorized Consolidated Appeals as proposed by OCHA on several occasions, preferring bilateral arrangements. DFID is a major donor to Pakistan and has committed GBP 375 million for 2016-17. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/The Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)/The Office of Food for Peace (FFP) have committed USD 64 million. These funds are attributed for the most part to shelter, settlements and WASH. UNHCR has launched an appeal for USD 127 million and is currently experiencing a shortfall of USD 109 million.

Pakistan has also secured significant funding for food security notably in Sindh and Baluchistan from the World Bank and DEVCO.

Iran

UNHCR has requested USD 95 526 963 for 2017 for Iran in the framework of the "Building resilience and solutions for Afghan refugees in South–West Asia" strategy presented on 29 June 2016.

Central Asia

Central Asia lacks a robust presence of international humanitarian organizations and UN-led coordination structures are weak. ECHO is one of the very few donors contributing to DRR.

3.3 Constraints and ECHO response capacity

Afghanistan

Key challenges for the humanitarian community is access to contested and opposition-held areas and interference in programming both by Government and Non-government groups. The overall hostile operating environment tends to limit the number of available implementation partners. ECHO will maintain a full office in Kabul in order to ensure assessments, quality control and monitoring & evaluation and coordination of its response.

Pakistan

Humanitarian space in Pakistan is severely constrained due both to security issues and to the GoP's restrictions on access for the humanitarian community. Armed escorts are also often imposed in some areas. There is a general lack of respect for humanitarian principles, which requires constant advocacy. ECHO will maintain an office in Islamabad in order to ensure assessments, quality control and monitoring & evaluation and coordination of its response.

Iran

Traditionally Iran has tightly restricted and controlled humanitarian access. There are very few international partners. More recently the Government of Iran (GoI) has shown

signs of opening up the humanitarian space. With an increased funding allocation ECHO will need to consider an enhanced monitoring and evaluation capacity.

Central Asia

Access to Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan is cumbersome due to bureaucratic and lengthy visa procedures, and free movement inside both countries remains a challenge.

3.4 Envisaged ECHO response and expected results of humanitarian aid interventions

In view of the massive needs in the region, ECHO will prioritise lifesaving activities and in particular in situations where populations cannot access traditional means of assistance due to conflict, disaster or forced displacement.

Afghanistan

The Commission will maintain focus on response to the most acute humanitarian needs with priority to new needs arising from the conflict. At the same time, ECHO will also support the capacity to respond to critical needs resulting from natural disasters and maintain a strong focus on supporting access to contested and under-served areas. ECHO will strive to coordinate its actions with development initiatives and indeed advocate for the needs of vulnerable groups to be incorporated into long-term government policies and activities.

Priority actions will include:

Emergency relief assistance for vulnerable internally displaced people (whether affected by conflict or natural disasters), returning refugees (primarily the most vulnerable undocumented refugees), and Pakistani refugees in Afghanistan. This will consist of: food, emergency shelter & non-food items, health, water, hygiene and sanitation. The assistance will be based on objective assessments and will provide bridging support while the beneficiaries find longer-term solutions.

Basic health care and access to life-saving medical assistance for civilian war-wounded will be provided where services are disrupted by the conflict.

Nutritional rehabilitation treatment will be provided for women and children in areas where the acute malnutrition rate is above the emergency threshold.

Protection is an overarching concern to be mainstreamed into all ECHO funded actions. This will include measures to counter Gender-based violence and the needs of children in conflict and natural disaster settings. There is also an urgent and pressing need to promote International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and recall their obligations to the parties to the conflict.

ECHO will support coordination initiatives in order to promote efficiency of the humanitarian response. Priority will be placed on the practical operational coordination with a focus on the priority sectors of intervention.

ECHO will seek to enhance humanitarian support services including dedicated humanitarian air transportation and the provision of safety and security support to NGOs, in order to support and improve the delivery of principled humanitarian aid, with a particular focus on remote and underserved areas.

Education in emergencies could be provided for children excluded from school as a result of conflict or disaster; however this will be secondary to life-saving actions and subject to the availability of funds.

Pakistan

ECHO's response is designed to focus on the most acute humanitarian needs of refugees (and returnees), Internally Displaced People and those affected by natural disasters.

Protection interventions should ensure a holistic approach with strengthened and effective monitoring, prevention and response to violence, abuse, harassment, extortion and exploitation. ECHO will also consider assistance packages facilitating the attainment of durable solutions but will not support activities which may raise concerns about the voluntary, safe and dignified nature of the refugee and IDP return process. Particular attention should be given to ensure the inclusion and access of the most vulnerable, including women, children, the elderly, disabled and marginalized groups such as minorities.

With regard to food insecurity and malnutrition, ECHO will concentrate its efforts on tackling severe acute malnutrition above emergency levels (as based on solid data) in areas that cannot be supported by Government or development donor programmes. It will provide specialised nutritional support and foodstuffs and can also provide concomitant enhanced WASH facilities and hygiene and nutrition education. Food assistance will be provided through cash grants where possible and is to be closely linked to efforts to restore or promote livelihoods/resilience.

WASH interventions should adopt a broad community approach to ensure adequate overall coverage of water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion within the targeted communities. Equally, robust engagement with relevant authorities should be ensured from the very onset of the intervention to ensure appropriate levels of sustainability.

ECHO will support access to primary health care for vulnerable populations who have lost access due to conflict or natural disasters, with particular attention to strong and effective referral mechanisms, obstetric services, new born and child healthcare activities, with linkages to nutrition, epidemiological surveillance and response to disease outbreaks remain key priorities.

Shelter assistance will be focused on emergency needs and on developing adapted intervention strategies for those living in host communities and for returnees. Whenever appropriate, cash should be favoured in lieu of actual articles in kind. In the current context the establishment of camps is not encouraged but may be considered if the situation warrants them.

ECHO will continue to support coordination, advocacy, common services and such interventions which improve the safety, principled nature and effectiveness of humanitarian action.

The approach towards DRR will be to consolidate the School-based Disaster Risk Management (SBDRM) and Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) models in terms of supporting authorities to adapt and implement already tested models by building the capacities of concerned line departments. The priorities as outlined which will need to be taken into account are: School Based Disaster Risk Management, Community Based Disaster Risk Management, testing of cost effectiveness and efficiency, cash preparedness and further use of Safety Nets System to anchor emergency response and integration of Disaster Preparedness (DP)/DRR in annual development plans in line with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Road Map.

Education in emergencies could be provided for children excluded from school as a result of conflict or disaster; however this will be secondary to life-saving actions and subject to the availability of funds.

Iran

ECHO's strategy for Iran in 2017 will be to provide support to the most vulnerable Afghan refugees, regardless of their status, with: food assistance; health; shelter; protection, and education interventions.

Response mechanisms notably in terms of health, shelter and education should complement and enhance existing efforts rather than establishing separate uncoordinated systems. ECHO will also expect that particular attention to regular monitoring and evaluation will be ensured.

ECHO is particularly committed to assist vulnerable Afghan children with otherwise little to no access to education and protection services. It also concerns children who are either out-of-school or at risk of dropping out.

Central Asia

The focus is on implementation of DRR programs in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The main objective will be to improve the resilience of the most vulnerable local communities as well as to build the capacity of national/regional/local institutions dealing with DRR in natural disaster prone areas.

The strategy will seek to consolidate and institutionalise where possible the results achieved through previous Disaster Preparedness ECHO programmes (DIPECHO). The action plan will contribute to building resilience and a culture of safety in line with the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030, to which all governments in the Central Asia have made commitments.

ECHO will proceed with an exit strategy from Central Asia, aiming at institutionalisation of previous achievements and hand-over to national governments.

The priority activities will include:

a) Strengthening capacities for disaster risk management at community, and government levels, including institutional linkages and advocacy.

- b) Advocate for and contribute to specific DRR sensitive policies and mainstreaming of DRR into any relevant policy fields;
- c) Support to capacity and resilience building of most vulnerable people through community-based DRR.
- d) Contributing to establishment of effective early warning systems at community and government levels.
- e) The introduction of innovative approaches to DRR including adaptation capacities to climate change (e.g. livelihood diversification, water storage, shelters).
- f) Streamlining and strengthening of advanced emergency preparedness and response mechanisms through facilitation of principled emergency preparedness and response plans and methodologies.
- g) Prioritize DRR actions in communities sharing trans-boundary watersheds; and communities highly exposed to environmental hazards such those affected by the legacy of Soviet-era uranium mining and processing.

General considerations:

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. Partners with sufficient capacity are also encouraged to go for the “above standard communication” option. Further explanation of visibility requirements and examples of best practices can be consulted on the dedicated visibility site: <http://www.echo-visibility.eu/>

All humanitarian interventions funded by DG ECHO must take into consideration, together with other protection concerns, any risk of gender-based violence and develop and implement appropriate strategies to prevent such risks. Moreover, in line with its life-saving mandate, DG ECHO encourages the establishment of quality, comprehensive and safe GBV response services since the onset of emergencies, in line with DG ECHO's 2013 Gender policy.¹

4. LRRD², COORDINATION AND TRANSITION

4.1 Other ECHO interventions

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/gender_age_marker_toolkit.pdf;

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/gender-sensitive-aid_en

² Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development

Afghanistan

In 2016, an allocation of almost EUR 1.8 million has been decided for education in emergencies. The action funded under this budget will run through 2016-17 and is coordinated with the EU funded "Aid to uprooted people" program, both focusing on building resilience for children's in protracted displacement situations.

4.2 Other services/donor availability

Afghanistan

In October 2016 donors reaffirmed their support for Afghanistan by pledging USD 15 billion in development assistance. ECHO will continue linking up with development donors' early recovery programmes in order to ensure the longer term resilience of its vulnerable caseloads. However, limited capacity of government agencies, aid diversion, increasingly difficult operating conditions and lack of access and monitoring have significantly challenged the efficiency and effectiveness of stabilisation and development strategies so far.

Pakistan

Other donors, such as DEVCO and EU Member States, in particular the Department for International Development (DFID), OFDA, and USAID remain key donors in Pakistan and offer opportunities to develop synergies with ECHO programmes exist.

Iran

In view of the recent embargoes and restrictions imposed by the Iranians themselves the number of donors and international development initiatives remain extremely limited.

Central Asia

DRR is a vital part of the EU's resilience agenda. The resilience approach will encourage DRR to be more consistently integrated into longer term development processes and to scale up and replicate the benefits of ECHO's DRR activities, for example those delivered by the former DIPECHO programme.

Regarding donor commitments, the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank (WB), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), USAID, and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) have all committed funding support to DRR projects and to the implementation of Hyogo/Sendai frameworks of Action. Nevertheless, there has been a continuous downward trend in DRR funding in Central Asia in recent years.

4.3 Other concomitant EU interventions

Afghanistan

The EU has signed an agreement with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoA) to provide up to EUR 1.4 billion in development assistance over the next seven years.

Under the EU Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2014-2020, the focal sectors of intervention are Agriculture and Rural Development, Health, Policing & Rule of Law, and Democratisation & Accountability. Joint ECHO and EU Delegation Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) efforts are focused in the areas of disaster risk reduction (DRR), protection and reintegration of refugees (including education in emergencies), food security (monitoring) and health.

After having supported local governance rehabilitation, the European Union's Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), formerly the Instrument for Stability (IfS) now focuses in Afghanistan on civil registration (e-tazkera), women and peace building.

Pakistan

The EU MIP 2014-2020 focuses on three key sectors: i) rural development, ii) education and iii) good governance, human rights and rule of law. The Annual Action Programme (AAP) 2017 has indicated four main areas of cooperation, which include Sindh Economic growth, Baluchistan education, Sindh education and an allocation for Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF).

In most instances, the EU is doing budgetary support to provincial governments and also supporting the non-state actors and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in promoting human rights, accountability and good governance. ECHO and DEVCO are looking for synergies through the development of a Joint Humanitarian Development Framework (JHDF) to respond protracted crises particularly in Sindh province.

The EU supports Sustainable Rural Development in the Refugee-Affected and Hosting Areas of Pakistan (EUR 40 million) in 103 Union Council in KP & Baluchistan. The Sindh Union Council Community Economic Strengthening Support (SUCCESS) is a EUR 82.13 million project that will continue till 2021. Aid to Uprooted People (AUP), is a EUR 22 million project to be implemented in Baluchistan province. In the nutrition sector, there is the current EUR 30 million Women and children/infants Improvement on Nutrition in Sindh (WINS) and the 2017 Multi-sectoral approach to nutrition of EUR 60 million action will focus on 10 districts currently covered by SUCCESS and WINS. The EU also supports FAO for coordination and operational related initiatives on food security, nutrition, agriculture and land governance. The Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) is providing EUR 10 million for a new initiative 'Support to returnees and their communities in FATA', which will focus mainly on education, resilience and reforms in FATA.

Iran

Preparations are currently under way for the programming of the regional EU "Support for Afghan uprooted people" for 2017 – 2019 for EUR 20 million covering Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran.

Central Asia

The European Commission's development cooperation with the countries of Central Asia is based on a multi-annual regional cooperation strategy and is provided through: Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) which funds both regional programmes as well as bilateral programmes; the Nuclear Safety Instrument which provides EU assistance in the area of Nuclear Safety; the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR); the Instrument contributing to peace and stability (IcSP) which provides support to conflict prevention and promotes stability at regional or country level. These programmes are potentially complementary to the DIPECHO, in particular, where focal sectors concern rural development (KG, TAJ) or social sector development (KG, TAJ).

4.4 Exit scenarios

Afghanistan

Any humanitarian exit scenario would be based on reduced conflict and vulnerability but also on an increased capacity of the government to provide basic services, economic development and livelihoods. In reality the conflict and humanitarian needs continue to escalate and despite sustained efforts of the international community to support the GoA with stabilisation and economic development, these are not at a level that would allow a phasing out of international humanitarian assistance in the near future.

Pakistan

An exit is under way from Sindh province as the Government of Sindh with the support of the World Bank and DEVCO is now rolling out a programme to address the nutritional problems. As far as populations displaced by the internal security operations are concerned, the official plan from the Pakistani authorities is to have them returned by November 2016. Concurring analysis indicates that part of this population will remain displaced and in need of some assistance into 2017 but it is certainly a dwindling caseload, especially as the return is to be accompanied by the GoA and development donors. The refugee crisis is unlikely to be resolved in 2017 but the sharp increase in the number of Afghans returning home since mid-July 2016 implies a reduced caseload in Pakistan; however the return process may actually require additional funding.

Iran

Any exit strategy will depend on the situation in Afghanistan and the eventual ability of refugees to either return or be fully integrated into the local society. Discussions are underway with DEVCO to take into consideration possible contributions to the longer-term care and maintenance or integration of these refugees that would allow ECHO to phase out.

Central Asia

According to the exit strategy formulated under HIP 2016, ECHO will phase-out DRR programs in Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan. These countries though may still benefit from the support to coordination and preparedness from the regional center in

Almaty. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are still considered priority countries for DRR based on the InfoRM index (more vulnerable and more frequently affected by climate-related disasters such as floods, avalanches, landslides).

The three phase-out countries are still in need of support on DRR but they have more resources and better response capacities. Discussions with DEVCO for the integration of DIPECHO within their broader Resilience strategies will be intensified.