

TECHNICAL ANNEX

Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Central Asia

FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

The provisions of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2017/01000 and the General Conditions of the Agreement with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

The activities proposed hereafter are subject to any terms and conditions which may be included in the related Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP).

1. CONTACTS

Operational Unit in charge: ECHO/C4

Head of Sector: Philippe MAUGHAN - Philippe.Maughan@ec.europa.eu

- For **Afghanistan**:

At HQ:	Daniel WEISS -	Daniel.Weiss@ec.europa.eu
In the field:	Esmée DE JONG -	Esmee.De-Jong@echofield.eu
	Philippe BONHOURE -	Philippe.Bonhoure@echofield.eu
	Marco MENESTRINA -	Marco.Menestrina@echofield.eu

- For **Pakistan**:

At HQ:	Mirka MOUWES –	Mirka.Mouwes@ec.europa.eu
In the field:	Olivier ROUSSELLE -	Olivier.Rousselle@echofield.eu
	Caroline BIRCH -	Caroline.Birch@echofield.eu

- For **Central Asia**

At HQ:	Philippe MAUGHAN -	Philippe.Maughan@ec.europa.eu
In the field:	David SEVCIK -	David.Sevcik@echofield.eu

- For **Iran**

At HQ:	Philippe MAUGHAN -	Philippe.Maughan@ec.europa.eu
In the field:	Caroline BIRCH -	Caroline.Birch@echofield.eu

2. FINANCIAL INFO

Indicative Allocation: EUR 49 450 000

Breakdown:

	Specific Objective 1 - Man-made crises ¹ :	Specific Objective 4 - Disaster Preparedness
Afghanistan	EUR 29 500 000	
Pakistan	EUR 6 000 000	EUR 1 800 000
Iran	EUR 9 750 000	
Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia		EUR 2 400 000
Sub total	EUR 45 250 000	EUR 4 200 000

3. PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT

3.1. Administrative info

Assessment round 1: Afghanistan

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 19 000 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to section 3.4 of the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2.2.2 of the technical annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1/1/2017². Actions may start from 1/1/2017.
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up to 12 months for Humanitarian Aid Actions and 18 Months for DP/DRR Actions.
- e) Potential partners: ECHO Partners with an established presence in Afghanistan.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form³.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 29/01/2017⁴.

¹ As possibly aggravated by natural disasters.

² The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest.

³ Single Forms will be submitted to ECHO using APPEL.

⁴ The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

Assessment round 2: Pakistan

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 7 000 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round. Please refer to section 3.4 of the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2.2.2 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1/1/2017⁵. Actions may start from 1/1/2017.
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up to 12 months for Humanitarian Aid Actions and 18 Months for DP/DRR Actions.
- e) Potential partners: All ECHO Partners who have an established presence in Pakistan and who have not been refused a Government of Pakistan Memorandum of Understanding to operate in Pakistan.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form⁶.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 05/02/2017⁷.

Assessment round 3: Iran

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 8 750 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round. Please refer to section 3.4 of the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2.2.2 of this Technical Annex
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1/1/2017⁸. Actions may start from 1/1/2017.
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up to 12 months.
- e) Potential partners: ECHO Partners with an established presence in Iran.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form⁹.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 08/01/2017¹⁰.

Assessment round 4: Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 2 200 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round. Please refer to section 3.4 of the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2.2.2 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1/1/2017¹¹. Actions may start from 1/1/2017.
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up to 18 months.

^{5, 8} The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest.

^{6, 9} Single Forms will be submitted to ECHO using APPEL.

^{7, 10} The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

¹¹ The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest.

- e) Potential partners: All ECHO Partners.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form¹².
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 29/01/2017¹³.

Assessment round 5: Afghanistan

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 6 500 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to section 3.4 of the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2.2.2 of the technical annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1/1/2017¹⁴. Actions may start from 1/1/2017.
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up to 12 months for Humanitarian Aid Actions and 18 Months for DP/DRR Actions.
- e) Potential partners: ECHO Partners with an established presence in Afghanistan.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form¹⁵.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 16/07/2017¹⁶.

Assessment round 6: Pakistan

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 800 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round. Please refer to section 3.4 of the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2.2.2 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1/1/2017¹⁷. Actions may start from 1/1/2017.
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up to 12 months for Humanitarian Aid Actions and 18 Months for DP/DRR Actions.
- e) Potential partners: ECHO Partners who have recognized competence in the DRR/resilience sector and an established presence in Pakistan and who have not been refused a Government of Pakistan Memorandum of Understanding certificate to operate in Pakistan.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form¹⁸.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 16/07/2017¹⁹.

^{12,15,18} Single Forms will be submitted to ECHO using APPEL.

^{13,16,19} The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

^{14,17} The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest.

Assessment round 7: Iran

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 1 000 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round. Please refer to section 3.4 of the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2.2.2 of this Technical Annex
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1/1/2017²⁰. Actions may start from 1/1/2017.
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up to 12 months.
- e) Potential partners: ECHO Partners with an established presence in Iran.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form²¹.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 16/07/2017²².

Assessment round 8: Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 200 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round. Please refer to section 3.4 of the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2.2.2 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1/1/2017²³. Actions may start from 1/1/2017.
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up to 18 months.
- e) Potential partners: ECHO partners that are familiar with the DIPECHO programme and have established presence in Tajikistan.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form²⁴.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 16/07/2017²⁵.

Assessment round 9: Afghanistan

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 5 000 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to section 3.4 of the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2.2.2 of the technical annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1/1/2017²⁶. Actions may start from 1/1/2017.
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up to 12 months for Humanitarian Aid Actions.
- e) Potential partners: ECHO Partners with an ongoing contract in Afghanistan.

^{20,23,26} The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest.

^{21,24} Single Forms will be submitted to ECHO using APPEL.

^{22,25} The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

- f) Information to be provided: Single Form²⁷.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 26/11/2017²⁸.

3.2. Operational requirements:

3.2.1. *Assessment criteria:*

The assessment of proposals will look at:

- The compliance with the proposed strategy (HIP) and the operational requirements described in this section;
- Commonly used principles such as: quality of the needs assessment and of the logical framework, relevance of the intervention and coverage, feasibility, applicant's implementation capacity and knowledge of the country/region.
- In case of actions already being implemented on the ground, where ECHO is requested to fund a continuation, a visit of the ongoing action may be conducted to determine the feasibility and quality of the Action proposed.
- Other elements that may be taken into account in the appraisal, based on context, relevance and feasibility, e.g.: coordination, security, monitoring and control management, access arrangements, lessons learned, exit strategy, comparative advantage, added value, sustainability

3.2.2. *Operational guidelines:*

This section outlines the general and specific operational guidelines which need to be taken into account by ECHO partners in the design of humanitarian operations supported by ECHO. Complementary information can be retrieved on these guidelines in the links provided below. Partners are invited to duly reflect the guidance provided in these documents in the preparation of their proposals to ECHO

3.2.2.1. General Guidelines

The humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, in line with the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, and strict adherence to a "**do no harm**" approach remain paramount.

Do no harm: Partners should ensure that the context analysis takes into account threats in addition to vulnerabilities and capacities of affected populations. The analysis should bring out both external threats to the target population as well as the coping strategies adopted to counteract the vulnerabilities. The risk equation model provides a useful tool to conduct this analysis. The model stipulates that *Risks equals Threats multiplied by Vulnerabilities divided by Capacities*, and the way to reduce risks is by reducing the

²⁷ Single Forms will be submitted to ECHO using APPEL.

²⁸ The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

threats and vulnerabilities and increasing the capacities. Depending on the type of threat faced by the population in question, reducing it can be anything from possible/straightforward to impossible/dangerous. In the latter case, one will resort to focusing on vulnerabilities and capacities, but the fact that the analysis has acknowledged the threat will contribute to ensuring that the response subsequently selected does not exacerbate the population's exposure to the risk.

The safe and secure provision of aid: the ability to safely deliver assistance to all areas must be preserved. ECHO requests its partners to include in the project proposal details on how safety and security of staff (including the staff of implementing partners) and assets is being considered as well as an analysis of threats and plans to mitigate and limit exposure to risks. ECHO or its partners can request the suspension of ongoing actions as a result of serious threats to the safety of staff.

Accountability: partners remain accountable for their operations, in particular:

- The identification of the beneficiaries and of their needs using, for example, baseline surveys, KAP-surveys, Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) or beneficiary profiling;
- Management and monitoring of operations, and having adequate systems in place to facilitate this;
- Reporting on activities and outcomes, and the associated capacities to collect and analyse information;
- Identification and analysis of logistic and access constraints and risks, and the steps taken to address them.

Response Analysis to Support Modality Selection for all Resource Transfers is mandatory. ECHO will support the most effective and efficient modality of providing assistance, whether it be cash, vouchers or in-kind assistance. However, in line with World Humanitarian Summit commitments, ECHO will endeavour to increase cash-based interventions in the interests of cost efficiency and effectiveness gains. The questions 'why not cash' and 'if not now, then when' should be asked before modalities are selected. Partners should provide sufficient information on the reasons about why a transfer modality is proposed and another one is excluded. The choice of the transfer modality must demonstrate that the response analysis took into account the market situation in the affected area. Multiple contextual factors must be taken into account, including technical feasibility criteria, security of beneficiaries, agency staff and communities, beneficiary preference, needs and risks of specific vulnerable groups (such as Pregnant and Lactating Women, elderly, child headed households etc.), mainstreaming of protection (safety and equality in access), gender (different needs and vulnerabilities of women, men, boys and girls) concerns and cost-effectiveness. Therefore for any type of transfer modality proposed, the partner should provide the minimum information as recommended in the [Thematic Policy Document n° 3 - Cash and Vouchers: Increasing efficiency and effectiveness across all sectors](#) and demonstrate that the modality proposed will be the most efficient and effective to reach the objective of the action proposed. Partners are encouraged to consider multipurpose cash transfers (MPCT) where assessments and response analysis demonstrates that multiple basic needs can be met through single cash transfers. In such approaches, the value of transfer would

normally be based upon a Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), while taking account the contribution made by households, and available resources.

For in-kind transfer local purchase are encouraged when possible.

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo/en/what/humanitarian-aid/cash-and-vouchers>

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/concept_paper_common_top_line_principles_en.pdf

Strengthening coordination: Partners should provide specific information on their active engagement in cluster/sector and inter-cluster/sector coordination: participation in coordination mechanisms at different levels, not only in terms of meetings but also in terms of joint field assessments and engagement in technical groups and joint planning activities. The partners should actively engage with the relevant local authorities and, when feasible and appropriate, stipulate co-ordination in Memoranda of Understanding. When appropriate, partners should endeavour to exchange views on issues of common interest with actors present in the field (e.g. EU, UN, AU missions, etc.). In certain circumstances, coordination and deconfliction with military actors might be necessary. This should be done in a way that does not endanger humanitarian actors or the humanitarian space, and without prejudice to the mandate and responsibilities of the actor concerned.

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo/en/what/humanitarian-aid/civil-military-relations>

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR): As part of the commitment of ECHO to mainstream disaster risk reduction in its humanitarian operations, the needs assessment presented in the Single Form should reflect, whenever relevant, the exposure to natural hazards and the related vulnerability of the targeted population and their livelihoods and assets. This analysis should also assess the likely impact of the humanitarian intervention on both immediate and future risks as well as the partner's institutional commitment to and operational capability in managing risk (technical competence in the relevant sectors of intervention. The DRR approach and related measures are relevant in all humanitarian sectors (WASH, nutrition, food assistance and livelihoods, health, protection, etc.), and should be systematically considered in hazard-prone contexts. Risk-informed programming across sectors should protect operations and beneficiaries from hazard occurrence, and include contingency arrangements for additional or expanded activities that might be required. Information from early warning systems should be incorporated into programme decision making and design, even where the humanitarian operation is not the result of a specific hazard.

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

For targeted DRR interventions, the information in the Single Form should clearly show that:

- all risks have been clearly identified, including their possible interactions;

- the intervention strengthens and promotes the role of the state and non-state actors in disaster reduction and climate change adaptation from national to local levels;
- the measures planned are effective in strengthening the capacity of communities and local authorities to plan and implement local level disaster risk reduction activities in a sustainable way, and have the potential to be replicated in other similar contexts;
- the intervention contributes to improving the mechanisms to coordinate disaster risk reduction programmes and stakeholders at national to local levels.
- demonstrate that the action is designed including the existing good practice in this field;
- the partner has an appropriate monitoring, evaluation and learning mechanism to ensure evidence of the impact of the action and good practice are gathered, and effectively disseminated.

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/prevention_preparedness/DRR_thematic_policy_doc.pdf

Education in Emergencies: ECHO will support education activities that enable children's safe access to quality education²⁹ in ongoing conflicts, complex emergencies and early recovery phases. Furthermore, it may support longer-term educational activities in protracted crises and in refugee/IDP camps. Innovative solutions will be supported. Actions targeting transition to formal education systems in preparation for a development intervention may also be supported.

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

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

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

²⁹ The Commission adhere to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child that defines a 'child' as a person below the age of 18.

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

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

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

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/children_2008_Emergency_Crisis_Situations_en.pdf

Gender-Age Mainstreaming: Ensuring gender-age mainstreaming is of paramount importance to ECHO, since it is an issue of quality programming. Gender and age matter in humanitarian aid because women, girls, boys, men and elderly women and men are affected by crises in different ways. Emergencies also tend to change gender dynamics.

The needs and capacities of different gender and age groups among targeted populations must be adequately assessed and - consequently - assistance must be adapted to ensure equal access and that specific needs are addressed. Context-specific gender-sensitive needs assessments and gender analysis must be conducted to avoid vulnerability-related assumptions (e.g. women should not be considered the most vulnerable groups by default) and to ensure a more effective targeting. On the basis of the identified needs, practical examples of assistance adapted to the needs of different gender and age groups must also be provided in the Single Form. Actions targeting one specific gender and/or age group - particularly when one group is clearly more vulnerable than others —may in some instances be deemed necessary (e.g. unaccompanied minors or adolescents): such actions should respond to a clear need that has been identified through a gender and age analysis and cannot be adequately addressed through mainstreaming. While assistance may specifically target one group, the participation of other groups may prove crucial for reaching the expected impact.

All project proposals/reports must demonstrate integration of gender and age in a coherent manner throughout the Single Form, including in the needs assessment and risk analysis, the logical framework, description of activities and the gender-age marker section. The Gender-Age Marker is a tool that uses four criteria to assess how strongly ECHO funded humanitarian actions integrates gender and age consideration. For more information about the marker and how it is applied please consult the Gender-Age Marker Toolkit

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

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

Integrated approaches: Whenever possible, integrated approaches with multi- or cross-sectoral programming of responses in specific geographical areas are encouraged to maximize impact, synergies and cost-effectiveness. In contexts where it has been determined (see also response analysis below) that cash transfers are an appropriate

modality, and that cash can meet multiple basic needs, partners are encouraged to transfer single payments using a common delivery platform. Multi-purpose cash transfers (MPCT) should be coordinated alongside other sector-specific responses within a basic needs approach, but fragmenting MPCT into sector clusters for coordination is not encouraged. MPCTs also offer the opportunity to conduct joined up assessments across sectors (including market analysis), common registration, targeting, and monitoring and evaluation frameworks. As far as possible, support functions should be separated out from actual transfers in order to reduce the potential for conflicts of interest. Partners are requested to provide information on how their actions are integrated with other actors present in the same area.

The application of an **integrated protection programming approach** is highly encouraged. In this particular attention should be paid to addressing protection threats and vulnerabilities emanating from issues such as freedom of movement restrictions and the use of dangerous/negative coping mechanisms. ECHO is willing to support innovative approaches for integrated protection programming with the aim of building a body of best practice. Partners may propose an amount up to EUR 30 000 within a grant that aims to answer key outstanding questions and issues on 1) development of indicators to measure impact of integrated protection programming with other sectors; 2) Approaches for monitoring and evaluating integrated protection programmes; 3) Training and human resources needs for integrated protection programming; and 4) Implementation of integrated protection programming in areas of difficult access. For more information please consult the Guidance for Integrated Food Assistance and Protection Programming in the ECHO Humanitarian Protection Thematic Policy Document.³⁰

Protection: Programme design should be based on a clear analysis of threats, vulnerabilities and capacities of the affected population and the response must aim to prevent, reduce/mitigate and respond to the risks and consequences of violence, coercion, deliberate deprivation and abuse for persons, groups and communities in the context of humanitarian crises. Integration of protection concerns is important in all contexts, but should, in particular, be reflected in any actions implemented in a displacement-hosting context (be it refugees or IDPs), in situations of conflict or in contexts where social exclusion is a known factor, where considerations on inter-communal relationships are of utmost importance for the protection of the affected population.

Mainstreaming of basic protection principles in all programmes is of paramount importance to ECHO. It refers to the imperative for each and every humanitarian actor to prevent, mitigate and respond to protection threats that are caused or perpetuated by humanitarian action/inaction by ensuring the respect of fundamental protection principles in humanitarian programmes – no matter what sector or objective. While mainstreaming protection is closely linked to the 'do no harm' principle, it widens it to prioritising safety and dignity and avoiding causing harm, ensuring meaningful access, ensuring accountability, participation and empowerment. All proposals must demonstrate integration of these principles, but also in its substantive sections, i.e. the logical framework, result and activity descriptions, etc.

³⁰ See Annex 4 on p. 49 and forward in http://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/staff_working_document_humanitarian_protection_052016.pdf

While humanitarian assistance often focuses on community-level interventions, it is important to remember that, in order to fully address many protection issues, it is also necessary to consider the relevance and feasibility of advocacy (structural level) interventions aimed at (a) stopping the violations by perpetrators and/or (b) convincing the duty-bearers to fulfil their responsibilities. The use of integrated protection programming approaches is also strongly encouraged.

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/staff_working_document_humanitarian_protection_052016.pdf

Resilience: ECHO's objective is to respond to the acute humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable and exposed people while taking opportunities to increase their **resilience** – to reduce on-going and future humanitarian needs and to assist a durable recovery. Where feasible, cost effective, and without compromising humanitarian principles, ECHO support will contribute to longer term strategies to build the capacities of the most vulnerable and address underlying reasons for their vulnerability – to all shocks and stresses.

All ECHO partners are expected to identify opportunities to reduce future risks to vulnerable people and to strengthen, self-reliance through livelihoods and capacities. ECHO encourages its partners to develop their contextual risk and vulnerability analysis and to adapt their approach to the type of needs and opportunities identified (see template). This requires partners to strengthen their engagement with government services (at all levels), development actors and with different sectors. In that regard, ECHO partners should indicate how they will increase ownership and capacity of local actors whenever possible: community mobilisation, CSOs, technical dialogue, coordination and gradual transfer of responsibilities to countries' administration or relevant line ministries.

Good coordination and strategic complementarity between humanitarian and development activities (LRRD approach) are essential to the resilience approach, particularly in relation to i) increasing interest of development partners and governments on nutrition issues; ii) seeking for more sustainable solutions for refugees (access to education, innovative approach toward strengthening self-resilience, etc.) and IDPs; iii) integrating disaster risk reduction into humanitarian interventions.

Where applicable, partners should reflect on applying resilience thinking and programming to (protracted) **forced displacement** situations – so as to harness resilience and strengthen self-reliance of affected populations – refugees, IDPs and their host communities. Working towards the gradual socio-economic inclusion of forcibly displaced populations – focusing on access to employment opportunities and access to services – in protracted crises is a priority for ECHO, DEVCO, NEAR and the EEAS, working in a comprehensive manner, each under their mandate – and should be supported by ECHO-funded partners, in line with humanitarian principles.

Linking **social protection** and humanitarian action can bridge the development-humanitarian divide. Investment in social protection mechanisms is an opportunity tackling the challenges faced by humanitarian crises and contributes to a reduction in the chronic humanitarian caseload, especially in the context of extreme fragility. Access to predictable, adequate and regular aid can, in the short-term protect poor households from the impacts of shocks and help to build capacity over time. Moreover, emergency safety

nets can be incorporated as a cornerstone of self-reliance strategy for empowering the forcibly displaced and giving them support to address vulnerabilities.

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/refugees-idp/Communication_Forced_Displacement_Development_2016.pdf

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/refugees-idp/Staff_working_document_Forced_Displacement_Development_2016.pdf

Community-based approach: In all sectors, interventions should adopt, wherever possible, a community-based approach in terms of defining viable options to effectively help increasing resilience and meeting basic needs among the most vulnerable. Community inclusion should be considered at all stages – design and implementation. Community ownership of the process is more effective and is encouraged. This includes the identification of critical needs as prioritised by the communities, and the transfer of appropriate knowledge and resources.

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

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

- The communication and visibility articles of the General Conditions annexed to the Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs) concluded with non-governmental organizations or international organizations or in the General Conditions for Delegation Agreements concluded in the framework of the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) with the UN.
- Specific visibility requirements agreed-upon in the Single Form, forming an integral part of individual agreements:
 - Section 9.1.A, Standard visibility in the field, including prominent display of the EU humanitarian aid visual identity on EU funded relief items and equipment; derogations are only possible where visibility activities may harm the implementation of the Action or the safety of the staff of the partner, staff of the Implementing partners, the safety of beneficiaries or the local community and provided that they have been explicitly agreed-upon in the individual agreements.
 - Section 9.1.B, Standard visibility recognizing the EU funding through activities such as media outreach, social media engagement and provision of photos stories and blogs; every partner is expected to choose at least 4 out of 7 requirements. If no requirements are selected, a project-specific derogation based on security concerns is needed.
 - Section 9.2., Above standard visibility; applicable if requested and if agreed with ECHO based on a dedicated communication plan prior to signature.

For standard visibility activities, partners may, in principle, allocate a budget of up to 0.5% of the direct eligible costs of the action with a ceiling of EUR 8 000. However, for individual agreements equal or above EUR 5 million no absolute ceiling applies. Hence, in such cases, the standard visibility budget may go up to 0.5%, even when this amount exceeds EUR 8 000. In the latter case, partners must provide an overview of planned visibility activities and a budget breakdown.

Further explanation of visibility requirements and reporting as well as best practices and

examples can be consulted on the dedicated ECHO visibility site: <http://www.echo-visibility.eu/>.

Other Useful links to guidelines and policies:

Food Assistance

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

Nutrition

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/media/publications/tpd04_nutrition_addressing_undernutrition_in_emergencies_en.pdf

Infant and Young Children Feeding in Emergencies (IYCF)

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/media/publications/2014/toolkit_nutrition_en.pdf

Health

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

Remote Management

http://dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/actions_implementation/remote_management/start

Water sanitation and hygiene

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/WASH_policy_doc_en.pdf

3.2.2.2. Specific guidelines

General principles

- **Response priorities:** ECHO's priority is to provide assistance to people immediately affected by conflict and natural disasters, with a specific concern for the most vulnerable. Its response shall cover such sectors as: food security; emergency shelter; non-food items; health and psycho-social support, WASH, protection and education. ECHO will also support the facilitation of access to the affected populations, coordination of the response and security measures to protect the responders.
- **Needs assessments:** All proposals should incorporate a situation analysis and provide an evidence-based needs assessment. The response strategy should include a prioritization of the required actions, clearly defined targeting criteria and intended outcomes.
- **Humanitarian access and Advocacy:** The unique operating environment of the region presents considerable challenges for Humanitarian access and principles. Partners will be expected to extend or at least preserve humanitarian space through the rigorous application of humanitarian principles (neutrality, impartiality and independence) and the constant promotion of international humanitarian law. Only partners with direct access to beneficiaries, adequate implementation and monitoring capacity and knowledge of the country/region will be considered.

- **The use of Multi-Purpose Cash-Based Assistance:** In all interventions the use of cash is encouraged, in line with the ECHO Cash & Voucher guidelines and the *Common Principles for Multi-Purpose Cash-Based Assistance to Respond to Humanitarian Needs*. Wherever conditional cash transfers are identified as a potential response option, a provision for unconditional cash transfers or light conditionality must be included for the extremely vulnerable groups.

Sector-specific guidelines

- **Protection:** is an overarching concern to be mainstreamed into all ECHO funded actions. Gender- based violence and the critical needs of children in conflict and natural disaster settings must be addressed. There is also an urgent and pressing need to promote International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and recall to the parties to the conflict their obligations.
- **WASH:** support can be provided for a response through the provision of emergency water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion and can include adequate stocks of pre-positioned supplies. NFIs, including hygiene kits, are only to be distributed in initial the phase of a response.

Focus will be on the rehabilitation and the repair of existing WASH systems/facilities before constructing new ones and on re-establishing institutional, social and organizational structures to manage WASH services. All WASH services must be context specific, reflect protection and gender concerns and be DRR-sensitive.

- **Health:** In accordance with ECHO policy, all health care provision must remain free of charge. Any exceptions to ECHO policy on this shall be justified explicitly by the Partner in the proposal.
- **Nutrition:** Nutrition interventions should not substitute for, or duplicate existing national programmes and must be justified on the basis of recent representative surveys corresponding to national and international guidelines. Priority will only be afforded to emergency situations where there is a prevalence of severe acute malnutrition that is above recognized emergency thresholds.
- **DP-DRR:** All actions supported by ECHO under DRR programming must fit into the respective national and regional DRR frameworks, as well as contributing to those being developed. Improving policy and legislative frameworks for disaster prevention and mitigation should be promoted. Proposals should be multi-hazard informed.

Country-specific priorities

Afghanistan

- **Access:** ECHO will insist on a direct management and monitoring approach in Afghanistan. A detailed explanation of the level and quality of access will be pre-requisite for proposal selection. All actions are expected to at least maintain, if not support the expansion of humanitarian access in line with the humanitarian principles.

- **Multi-sector rapid response:** Humanitarian response to those immediately affected by conflict and natural disasters remains the priority for ECHO in Afghanistan. Emergency Response shall cover the relevant sectors including food, emergency shelter, non-food items and WASH and protection.

All actions must be in line with the tools and guidelines developed under the *Emergency Response Mechanism (ERM)* including the *ERM Common Rationale* available from ECHO Kabul. This provides minimum standards and tools for assessment at the household level, response options and tools, post-distribution monitoring, and reporting. Where transitional shelter is considered, the *Emergency Shelter Guidelines* developed by ECHO partners for Afghanistan must be followed.

Proposals and target areas must be justified with reference to humanitarian needs at the provincial level with adequate analysis of the needs and trends in disasters, conflict, displacement and humanitarian needs. Pre-positioning of adequate supplies and response capacity must be aligned with the resulting analysis. Access, differentiated by quality of access, must be differentiated at least down to the district level and provided as a map. Access to only the district center should be highlighted and justified.

The response modality must be adequately justified in the proposal with reference to timeliness, efficiency, effectiveness and market assessment. In all interventions the use of cash is encouraged, in line with the ECHO Cash & Voucher guidelines and the *Common Principles for Multi-Purpose Cash-Based Assistance to Respond to Humanitarian Needs*. Wherever conditional cash transfers are identified as a potential response option, a provision for unconditional cash transfers or light conditionality must be included for the extremely vulnerable groups.

- **Refugees:** Pakistani refugees in Afghanistan will also be considered under this budget. Given the protracted nature of the displacement, focus will be on the provision of basic care and maintenance support and protection.
- **Health:** ECHO will support health actions related to the provision of adequate healthcare to those affected by conflict, disasters and epidemics. The treatment of war-wounded, including First Aid, stabilization, transportation, trauma-care will be a primary focus. Emergency psychosocial support and post-trauma rehabilitation, including physical rehabilitation can also be supported.

All projects shall clearly elaborate on linkages with the national health care systems (EPHS/BPHS) and distinguish clearly between services that should be provided under the national system and what is additionally proposed consequent to the effects of conflict or natural disaster. ECHO will not support actions that seek to duplicate existing EPHS/BPHS services or provide funding for under-funded providers.

- **Support Services:** Contributions can be provided towards the support to common services including safety & security advice and humanitarian flight services.

Such services must operate inclusively and in respect of the humanitarian principles. Proposals must demonstrate effective alignment with the needs of the humanitarian partners.

- **DRR:** Actions related to mitigation of natural disaster can be considered.

Pakistan

- **MoU:** Potential partners will be expected to have applied for the relevant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Pakistan permitting them to operate in Pakistan. Partners that have been specifically refused the MoU will not be supported.
- **Access:** ECHO will only support actions where the partner is able to obtain adequate access to assess needs, implement the action in a timely fashion and effect regular monitoring.
- **Population Movements:** Programmes, promoting, or facilitating population movements will only be supported by ECHO as far as they are voluntary, safe and sustainable and in compliance with international conventions and standards. Programmes that will ensure the protection of such populations will be given priority.
- **Temporarily Displaced People (TDPs):** In the case of TDPs, partners will be expected to demonstrate strong targeting based on vulnerabilities and de-linked from registration status. Actions must clearly differentiate between activities targeting recently displaced populations and those in protracted displacement. In areas of re-settlement, programmes must demonstrate that they are not competing with government services, or development initiatives. Actions related to shelter, food security and health and nutrition will only be supported in the context of temporary, emergency needs.
- **Refugees:** For the protracted Afghan refugee situation, ECHO's emphasis will be put on health and protection and safeguarding asylum space.
- **Sindh:** In the context of recurrent natural disasters in Sindh (floods in irrigated areas, drought in arid areas), ECHO will seek to support programmes that strengthen national capacities to respond to nutritional emergencies and promote resilience strategies. The sector specific guidelines on nutrition should inform any emergency response.
- **DRR:** Actions related to DRR can be considered but must conform to sector specific guidelines.

Iran

- **Refugees:** ECHO will support programmes providing assistance to Afghan refugees regardless of registration status, with a specific concern for the most vulnerable. Its response can cover such sectors as: food security; emergency shelter; non-food items; health and psycho-social support, WASH, protection and education.
- **Education and health:** In the case of education and health programmes, ECHO will expect these to respect national guidelines and avoid the establishment of parallel systems and structures.

Central Asia

- **Specific Locations:** Apart from emergency responses to any new crisis, ECHO will

only support actions related to DRR in Kirghizstan and Tajikistan or which provide capacity building support to the Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR) based in Almaty.

- **Thematic priorities:** Within the actions to be supported, ECHO will pay particular attention to the following themes adapted to the context of Central Asian countries:
 - a) Greater coordination among DIPECHO partners at country and regional level for (i) information sharing and more extensive and systematic exchanges on lessons learnt, challenges, best practices (ii) harmonization of approaches and methodologies (e.g. for risk assessment and mapping, early warning systems, etc.) (iii) looking for synergies between projects for a greater impact.
 - b) Adaptation, replication, dissemination, and institutionalization of successful DRR and community-based DRR models developed in previous DIPECHO actions;
 - c) Facilitate co-ordination and reinforcement of national and regional DRR platforms for an improved co-ordination among national and regional authorities;
 - d) Promote actions supporting the implementation at country and regional levels of the Global DRR Campaigns promoted through the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction such the One Million Safe Schools and Hospitals campaign and the Making Cities Resilience campaign;
 - e) Support community-based DRR action through promoting activities empowering vulnerable community and building their resilience to disasters by transferring knowledge and equipment, both in rural and urban environments;
 - f) Promote inclusive DRR as a cross-cutting issue (e.g. targeting socially marginalized people and people with disabilities, and the elderly).
 - g) DRR measures should integrate climate change adaptation and environment protection components;
 - h) Prioritize DRR actions in communities sharing transboundary watersheds; and communities highly exposed to environmental hazards such those affected by the legacy of Soviet-era uranium mining and processing.
 - i) Target the most vulnerable, excluded, underserved and remote communities and segments of the Tajik and Kyrgyz population with a systematic focus on the inclusion of women, children, the elderly and people living with disabilities;
 - j) Consolidate and promote disaster preparedness models compatible with local institutional environments, utilizing proven effective methodologies with a view to replication;
 - k) Ensure sound partnership with local and national DRR stakeholders and DRR initiatives, for the integration of adequate disaster preparedness mechanisms in national and sub-national development plans;
 - l) Focus both on rural and urban areas with high exposure to frequent or

potentially devastating natural hazards and with limited coping capacities;

m) Focus on strengthening efficient emergency preparedness and response mechanisms, including technical support to the Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR) based in Almaty.

- **Other responses:** Responding to any other major natural/ man-made crises can be considered in case such new crises would materialize in the course of the duration of current HIP.
- **Exit strategy:** The partner must demonstrate a clearly defined strategic and programmatic perspective that will ultimately conclude with phase-out and handover, either to the target community/institution, the appropriate authorities, or an appropriate longer-term funding instrument, so that sustainability and replication of actions undertaken is maximized. This refers both to ECHO's priority countries - Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan-, and Regional programs.
- **Lessons learned:** Applicants must systematically consider the capitalisation of experiences (key lessons learned and lessons to be applied, as well as documentation processes) and their dissemination in widely and appropriate manner (development of new documents should be limited to the cases when there are no similar tools or when no experiences have been already systematised). These activities should be explicitly envisaged under the activities and in the work plan of each proposal aiming at developing a common documentation methodology.