

## **HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)**

### **POLICY SUPPORT**

**The activities proposed hereafter are still subject to the adoption of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2017/01000**

Amount: EUR 1,600,000

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.

#### **1. CONTEXT**

In order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the European Union's funding for humanitarian assistance, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) is developing a range of policy products with the aim of supporting the overall effectiveness and efficiency of its operations and the larger humanitarian system. To ensure the highest quality of policy products, the provision of relevant expertise in the areas concerned and reinforced networking between humanitarian Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and ECHO is required.

#### **2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS**

The increasing scale of humanitarian needs calls for the most effective use of the limited resources available. The diversity of actors and approaches requires clear guidance regarding the best approaches to meet the needs of the beneficiaries, taking into account complex operating environments.

The need for policies and policy products to improve effectiveness and efficiency applies both directly to ECHO funding, and, more broadly, to global approaches to humanitarian funding. This is true for sector policy (such as Education, WASH, Health, Food, Nutrition, Shelter etc.), horizontal policy areas (such as Gender, Resilience, Needs Assessments and other current and future priorities), as well as overall humanitarian principles, International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and civil-military coordination.

The diverse and wide-ranging discussions of humanitarian challenges following the World Humanitarian Summit reinforced the need for the humanitarian community to pool expertise with a sense of vision for the future.

Therefore, ECHO needs to draw upon specific expertise from dedicated centres of excellence, as well as best practices in humanitarian assistance delivery by its partners.

### **3. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE**

Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 provides that humanitarian aid may be used to finance preparatory and feasibility studies for humanitarian operations, as well as measures to strengthen the Union's coordination with, inter alia, non-governmental organisations and organisations representing them. Furthermore, the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, adopted by the Council, European Parliament and the Commission on 18 December 2007 and its successive action plans, call for actions which promote humanitarian principles and law, and implement quality aid approaches which strengthen partnership, coherence and coordination.

Considering the above, ECHO is proposing the financing of specific humanitarian expertise and networks to contribute to the quality and coherence of policy initiatives in a number of focused sectors with the overall aim to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance.

The two components are:

#### **1) Provision of expertise to assist policy development in support of humanitarian assistance actions**

This includes contributions to, recommendations for and reviews of policy products under development, and undertaking specific studies and/or analyses to inform the development of policy. This may extend to organising workshops with relevant stakeholders to feed the policy-making process; studies to review policy implementation or present 'state of the art' thinking in a given policy area; and contributions to the elaboration of training modules in policy-related matters.

Identified areas for the development and dissemination of policy products include Needs Assessments, Education, Localisation, Urban response, Disaster Risk Management, Private sector engagement, Risk-informed programming, as well as Methodologies, Results Frameworks, Forced Displacement and other humanitarian issues. Other and additional priorities could be defined on the basis of new challenges in the field of humanitarian assistance and disaster response.

Those interventions will be implemented through grant agreements and/or service contracts, in particular with the renewal of the current service contract providing specific expertise and an administrative arrangement with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) to improve and expand products supporting Evidence Based Assessment and allocation methodologies.

#### **2) Reinforce networking between humanitarian non-governmental organisations**

The broad application foreseen for ECHO policy products requires drawing upon best practice in humanitarian assistance delivery. Reinforcing networking between partners is an important part of this. Furthermore, this exchange is important for pursuing issues related to the humanitarian principles, as well as for broader policy dissemination with a view to improving operational implementation.

This component will be implemented through an operating grant agreement with the Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE); a network representing 84 NGOs active in humanitarian assistance worldwide. The aim will be to enhance cooperation and coordination between European humanitarian NGOs, to reinforce networking, and to strengthen the collective influence of NGOs in order to improve efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance projects.