

TECHNICAL ANNEX

Syria Regional Crisis

FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

The provisions of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2020/01000 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 that may be included in the related Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP).

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2. FINANCIAL INFO

Indicative Allocation²: EUR 293 000 000 of which an indicative amount of EUR 19 500 000 for Education in Emergencies, EUR 30 000 000 for response to Beirut – Lebanon Explosions and EUR 3 000 000 for winterisation in Northwest Syria.

In line with DG ECHO's commitment to the Grand Bargain, pilot Programmatic Partnerships are envisaged with a limited number of partners. Part of this HIP may therefore be awarded to the selected pilot Programmatic partnerships.

Breakdown per Actions as per Worldwide Decision (in euros):

² The Commission reserves the right not to award all or part of the funds made or to be made available under the HIP to which this Annex relates

Country(ies)	Action (a) Man-made crises and natural disasters	Action (b) Initial emergency response/sm all- scale/epide mics	Action (c) Disaster Preparedness	Actions (d) to (h) Transport / Complement ary activities	TOTAL
Syria	197 000 000				197 000 000
Lebanon	51 000 000 + 30 000 000 (Beirut Explosions)				81 000 000
Jordan	15 000 000				15 000 000

3. PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT

Under the EU Financial Regulation, grants must involve co-financing; as a result, the resources necessary to carry out the action must not be provided entirely by the grant. An action may only be financed in full by the grant where this is essential for it to be carried out. In such a case, justification must be provided in the Single Form (section 10.4).

3.1. Administrative info

Allocation round 4 SYRIA

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 3 000 000.
- b) Costs of new actions will be eligible from 01/12/2020.
- c) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 12 months. Modification requests, which would complement ongoing operations, should have a maximum time extension of up to 12 months and a total duration of the modified action of maximum 48 months.
- d) Potential partners: pre-identified DG ECHO partners IOM, GOAL, PIN, based on their operational presence, their proven capacity to deliver winterization assistance rapidly, and the cost-effectiveness of their humanitarian operations in Northwest Syria.
- e) Support will focus on providing emergency winterisation response in to the most vulnerable populations in Northwest Syria (NWS). Activities should be in line with the WHO Covid-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan. Protection should be mainstreamed across all activities.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form / Modification Request to ongoing action

Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 15/12/2020

Allocation round 3 SYRIA

- g) Indicative amount: up to EUR 4 000 000³.
- h) Costs of new actions will be eligible from 11/03/2020.⁴
- i) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 12 months. Modification requests, which would complement ongoing operations, should have a maximum time extension of up to 12 months and a total duration of the modified action of maximum 48 months.
- j) Potential partners: all potential DG ECHO partners with proven operational capacity in the country concerned and already involved in the Covid-19 response in the targeted areas.
- k) Support will focus on Northwest Syria, with a view to strengthen emergency health response capacities, WASH services with a focus on ensuring access to adequate water and sanitation services in high-risk settings, as well as logistics, including through the strengthening of the supply chain. Activities should be in line with the WHO Covid-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan. Protection should be mainstreamed across all activities.
- l) Information to be provided: Single Form⁵
- m) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by **13/06/2020**⁶

Allocation round 2 SYRIA

- a) Indicative amount: EUR 20 000 000.
- b) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2020.⁷ Actions will start from 01/01/2020.
- c) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Education in Emergencies and for Pilot Programmatic Partnerships (Pilot PPs). Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations can be submitted as modification requests for the ongoing action with a time extension of up to 24 months and a total duration of the modified action of up to 48 months.
- d) Potential partners: All DG ECHO Partners/the Action is part of a pilot Programmatic Partnership.
- e) Information to be provided: Single Form⁸

³ A total amount of EUR 40 million for the Covid-19 response is implemented through country-/crisis specific allocations under several HIPs for: Bangladesh, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Palestine, South Sudan, Sudan, Northwest Syria, Uganda, Venezuela and Yemen.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

⁶ 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.

⁷ See footnote 4 above.

⁸ See footnote 5 above.

- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: funds of allocation round 2 will be allocated to proposals received under allocation round 1.

Allocation round 1 SYRIA

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 170 000 000.
- b) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2020.⁹ Actions will start from 01/01/2020.
- c) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Education in Emergencies and for Pilot Programmatic Partnerships (Pilot PPs). Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations can be submitted as modification requests for the ongoing action with a time extension of up to 24 months and a total duration of the modified action of up to 48 months.
- d) Potential partners¹⁰: All DG ECHO Partners/the Action is part of a pilot Programmatic Partnership. Preselected partner: ICRC (in view of its comprehensive presence in all countries in the region combined with its multi-sectoral intervention capacity and presence in the field, notably with respect to protection, ICRC has been pre-selected to run a Grand bargain related regional pilot project).
- e) Information to be provided: Single Form¹¹
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 02/12/2019¹²

Allocation round 3 LEBANON - response to Beirut Explosions

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 30 000 000.
- b) Costs of new Actions will be eligible from 04/08/2020.
- c) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 6 months. Modification requests, which would complement ongoing operations, should have a maximum time extension of up to 12 months.
- d) Preferred partners: all potential DG ECHO partners with proven operational capacity and technical expertise in the country, with demonstrated enhanced monitoring mechanisms and working in close collaboration with civil society.
- e) Support will focus on Shelter rehabilitation, Multi-purpose Cash, Health, Education in Emergency, Protection, as per specifications defined under.

⁹ See footnote 4 above.

¹⁰ For UK Partners: Please be aware that following the entry into force of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement* on 1 February 2020 and in particular Articles 127(6), 137 and 138, the references to natural or legal persons residing or established in a Member State of the European Union are to be understood as including natural or legal persons residing or established in the United Kingdom. UK entities are therefore eligible to participate under this HIP. * Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.

¹¹ See footnote 5 above.

¹² See footnote 6 above.

- f) Good targeting/selection of beneficiaries is of utmost importance, with an emphasis on vulnerability and needs.
- g) Information to be provided: Single Form for a new proposal or modification request for an on-going DG-ECHO funded operation.
- h) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by **07/09/2020**, 09h00 Brussels-time.

LEBANON – Beirut Explosions

Thematic priorities

Shelter

The focus should be on repair/light rehabilitation of individual housing units, to allow return in safe and dignified conditions as soon as possible.

The works should mostly focus on the adequate repairs/rehabilitation of the building openings (external doors & windows) meeting all standards in force. The works should include the rehabilitation of the plumbing and electricity house network when damaged, repairs/replacement of damaged/lost water tanks should be included. The replacement of essential household appliances/furniture destroyed by the explosions should be also considered.

Emergency repairs/rehabilitation of public infrastructures (schools, health structures, social centres, water stations, etc.) can be eligible in the spirit of re-establishing access to services, while waiting for long-term reconstruction or major engineering works.

Conditional cash transfers, vouchers or direct implementation by ECHO partners are all possible options.

Cleaning activities and shelter kit distributions and repairs on structural damages that need major engineering works are not a priority.

Beneficiary selection: strong emphasis should be given to vulnerability and needs.

Livelihoods and basic needs

Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) is considered as the most effective modality to ensure continued access to acute basic needs (food, shelter including other non-food needs) resulting from the impact of the disaster.

To align with DG ECHO cash note guidance, a horizontal expansion of the ongoing MPCA program is considered as the most preferred response. However, stand-alone sector specific cash assistance could eventually be considered if based on sound technical justification and in consultation with ECHO.

Referral pathways between the MPCA and sector specific support (health, shelter, protection etc...) should be further strengthened to ensure a comprehensive approach. Cash transfer value should follow the recommendation of the Basic Assistance Working Group, while ensuring an acceptable purchasing power for the beneficiaries.

Considering the economic meltdown and the compounding effect of the current disaster, it is important to closely monitor the currency volatility, market supply

chains and essential commodities' prices. Risk mitigation and/or stop gap measures need to be factored to avert the impact on the beneficiaries' purchasing power.

Beneficiary selection: focus should be on the most vulnerable refugees and host communities who have either exhausted, or at the verge of exhausting their resources and coping capacities. The targeting criteria should be expounded at the proposal stage. Given the urgency for response, it will be important to adapt a simplified criteria for vulnerability assessment.

Health

Any support to healthcare should be exclusively in support of existing structures and within the Lebanese public healthcare system.

The following activities are priority:

- 1) Provision of selected medicines, medical materials and PPEs (replenishment of high consumption in the aftermath of the explosions);
- 2) Support aimed at re-establishing healthcare services at damaged public hospitals and public primary healthcare facilities.

Coordination with pre-existing development projects should be clearly defined in the needs-assessment to avoid any overlapping. ECHO will not prioritise structures that were identified for support by other financial instruments before the explosions.

The in-country ICU capacities for Covid-19 have already been exhausted. Accordingly, not only should support be Covid-19 sensitive, but serious consideration should be paid to address the Covid-19 crisis in Lebanon also directly.

All actions, within any sector, should consider and incorporate activities in support of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), in line with the indications and framework provided by the national Mental Health Programme, to ensure coherence and coordination with the general and existing approach on mental health.

Education in Emergencies

Education interventions need to be directly linked with the impact of the explosions, aiming to ensure continuity of education for children in non-formal streams; this may include also schools' staff and children affected by the explosions who had not been participating in any form of education, with the goal to (re)start their learning. Projects will have to demonstrate a strong phase-out plan, ensuring continued access to education of beneficiaries at the end of the action.

Emergency repair/rehabilitation of schools, with provision of supplies/materials, can be eligible to re-establishing access to education, considering guidelines for safe school re-opening on account of Covid-19.

Coordination and alignment with longer-term reconstruction efforts should be demonstrated.

All education interventions will need to include due consideration of protection and psycho-social support.

Protection

Focus will be on covering gaps in access to protection services for vulnerable groups that have been rendered more at risk following the explosions; by expanding existing

services to these groups, or by establishing short-term interventions to address their needs, ensuring linkages to existing longer-term interventions.

The particular needs that could be supported include:

- Legal information and assistance to recuperate lost personal identification, for those particularly at risk without document (e.g. refugees, migrant workers);
- Access to protection services (accompaniment, legal aid and case management) for persons at particular risk of marginalisation, discrimination and neglect, and in coordination with health actors, to ensure their access to healthcare;
- Access to specific targeted services for persons with disabilities, elderly and persons with chronic illnesses. This can include replacement of damaged/lost assistive devices¹³, home-based care support if normal caretaker is no longer able to support, alternative housing if current one is damaged/inaccessible due to the explosions, or accompaniment to accessing other specific services based on individual needs. For persons having disabilities as a result of the explosions, support to assistive devices, rehabilitation and necessary reasonable accommodation of housing. Partnerships with local organisations of persons with disabilities is highly encouraged.

Overarching comments

All references to ECHO Policies and Guidelines in this document apply to the additional funding related to the aftermath of the Beirut explosions.

Given that the explosions affected an urban area with partial destruction of the port facilities, DG ECHO could include basic storage and offloading capacities for goods that should be integrated in broader short-term food security strategy.

DG ECHO promotes the integrated coordination of the Covid-19 and explosions response, including strong 'civil-military' relations, matched with a strong accountability and monitoring framework towards donors and the population.

Allocation round 2 LEBANON

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 1 000 000¹⁴
- b) Costs of new actions will be eligible from 11/03/2020.
- c) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 12 months. Modification requests, which would complement ongoing operations, should have a maximum time extension of up to 12 months and a total duration of the modified action of maximum 48 months.

¹³ In line with the WHO Priority Assistive Products List: https://www.who.int/phi/implementation/assistive_technology/global_survey-apl/en/. Note that certain assistive devices may require the prescription/technical details from a qualified professional, e.g. doctor, physiotherapist or prosthetist.

¹⁴ A total amount of EUR 40 million for the Covid-19 response is implemented through country-/crisis specific allocations under several HIPs for: Bangladesh, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Palestine, South Sudan, Sudan, Northwest Syria, Uganda, Venezuela and Yemen.

- d) Potential partners: all potential DG ECHO partners with proven operational capacity in the country concerned and already involved in the Covid-19 response in the targeted areas.
- e) Support will focus on strengthening WASH and emergency preparedness and response, with a focus on ensuring access to adequate water and sanitation services in high-risk settings. Proposals should be part of an integrated, multi-sectoral approach. Activities should be in line with the National Covid-19 Response Plan and WHO Covid-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan. Protection should be mainstreamed across all activities.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form for a new proposal or modification request for an on-going DG-ECHO funded operation.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by **13/06/2020**¹⁵.

Allocation round 1 LEBANON

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 50 000 000
- b) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2020.¹⁶ Actions will start from 01/01/2020.
- c) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Education in Emergencies, Disaster Preparedness, as well as for Pilot Programmatic Partnerships (Pilot PPs). Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations can be submitted as modification requests for the ongoing action with a time extension of up to 24 months and a total duration of the modified action of up to 48 months.
- d) Potential partners¹⁷: All DG ECHO Partners/the Action is part of a pilot Programmatic Partnership. Preselected partner: ICRC (in view of its comprehensive presence in all countries in the region combined with its multi-sectoral intervention capacity and presence in the field, notably with respect to protection, ICRC has been pre-selected to run a Grand bargain related regional pilot project).
- e) Information to be provided: Single Form¹⁸
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 26/01/2020¹⁹

¹⁵ See footnote 6 above.

¹⁶ See footnote 4 above.

¹⁷ For UK Partners: Please be aware that following the entry into force of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement* on 1 February 2020 and in particular Articles 127(6), 137 and 138, the references to natural or legal persons residing or established in a Member State of the European Union are to be understood as including natural or legal persons residing or established in the United Kingdom. UK entities are therefore eligible to participate under this HIP. * Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.

¹⁸ See footnote 5 above.

¹⁹ See footnote 6 above.

Allocation round 1 JORDAN

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 15 000 000.
- b) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2020.²⁰ Actions will start from 01/01/2020
- c) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Education in Emergencies as well as for Pilot Programmatic Partnerships (Pilot PPs). Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations can be submitted as modification requests for the ongoing action with a time extension of up to 24 months and a total duration of the modified action of up to 48 months.
- d) Potential partners²¹: All DG ECHO Partners/the Action is part of a pilot Programmatic Partnership. Preselected partner: ICRC (in view of its comprehensive presence in all countries in the region combined with its multi-sectoral intervention capacity and presence in the field, notably with respect to protection, ICRC has been pre-selected to run a Grand bargain related regional pilot project).
- e) Information to be provided: Single Form²²
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 28/02/2020²³

3.2. Operational requirements:

3.2.1. Assessment criteria:

- 1) Relevance
 - How relevant is the proposed intervention and its compliance with the objectives of the HIP?
 - Has the joint needs assessment been used for the proposed intervention (if existing)?
 - Has the proposed intervention been coordinated with other relevant humanitarian actors?
- 2) Capacity and expertise
 - Does the partner, with its implementing partners, have sufficient expertise (country / region and / or technical)?
 - How good is the partner's local capacity / ability to develop local capacity?
- 3) Methodology and feasibility

²⁰ See footnote 4 above.

²¹ For UK Partners: Please be aware that following the entry into force of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement* on 1 February 2020 and in particular Articles 127(6), 137 and 138, the references to natural or legal persons residing or established in a Member State of the European Union are to be understood as including natural or legal persons residing or established in the United Kingdom. UK entities are therefore eligible to participate under this HIP. * Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.

²² See footnote 5 above.

²³ See footnote 6 above.

- Quality of the proposed response strategy, including intervention logic / log frame, output & outcome indicators, risks and challenges.
 - Feasibility, including security and access constraints.
 - Quality of the monitoring arrangements.
- 4) Coordination and relevant post-intervention elements
- Extent to which the proposed intervention is to be implemented in coordination with other humanitarian actors and actions (including, where relevant, the use of single interoperable registries of beneficiaries).
 - Extent to which the proposed intervention contribute to resilience and sustainability.
- 5) Cost-effectiveness/efficiency/transparency
- Does the proposed intervention display an appropriate relationship between the resources to employed, the activities to be undertaken and the objectives to be achieved?
 - Is the breakdown of costs sufficiently documented/explained?²⁴

In case of actions ongoing in the field, where DG ECHO is requested to fund the continuation thereof, a field visit may be conducted by DG ECHO field expert (TA) to determine the feasibility and quality of the follow-up action proposed.

3.2.2. *Specific operational guidelines and operational assessment criteria:*

This section outlines the specific operational guidelines that DG ECHO partners need to take into account in the design of humanitarian operations supported by DG ECHO. It also lists and explains the assessment criteria – based on those outlined in section 3.2.1 - that DG ECHO will apply in the specific context of the HIP to which this Technical Annex relates when assessing proposals submitted in response to the related HIP.

The HIP Policy Annex should be consulted in parallel.

STRENGTHENING EARLY RESPONSE CAPACITY

(1) Emergency/Rapid Response Mechanisms (ERM/RRM) as stand-alone actions

Emergency/Rapid Response Mechanisms (ERMs/RRMs) are stand-alone actions pooling capacities of different partners for improved and more coordinated preparedness and early response, guided by early warning and contingency plans. ERMs/RRMs are designed to provide initial lifesaving multipurpose assistance when other response mechanisms are not yet in place. ERMs/RRMs are mostly used in rapid onset crises. For slow onset, objective indicators with thresholds for engagement / disengagement should be defined in coordination with other stakeholders including with relevant state authorities.

(2) Flexibility embedded into the actions

²⁴ In accordance with the relevant section of the Single Form guidelines (section10)

Whenever relevant, partners should introduce flexibility to mobilize resources from ongoing actions and swiftly respond to any new emerging shocks occurring in the area of their operations (a crisis within a crisis). Flexibility measures can be triggered to provide initial lifesaving multipurpose response in the aftermath of a rapid onset crisis; the two main scenarios are: i) to fill the time gap while waiting for additional resources; ii) to respond to small scale humanitarian needs which would otherwise remain unaddressed.

The application of flexibility measures should be based on a multi-risk analysis and the development of worst and most likely scenarios. Partners should develop a detailed plan considering prepositioning of stocks, surge staff, triggers and sectors of intervention.

ERM/RRM and flexibility measures are complementary and do not exclude each-other; flexibility measures enable to bridge the time gap between the shock and the time needed to mobilize ad-hoc resources through the ERM/RRM or additional funding. Timeliness of response is a key element for effectiveness of both flexibility measures and ERM/RRM. Partners should adopt indicators to measure the timeframe required to deliver the first assistance (e.g. lifesaving response for xxx persons, and/or need assessment within xxx days from the displacement/disaster/alert/exceeded triggers).

CASH ASSISTANCE

Where assistance is to be delivered in the form of cash transfers, particular attention will be paid to the principles laid down in DG ECHO's cash guidance note, which will form the basis for the assessment and selection of partners, in particular in the case of large scale transfers. Partners will be expected to demonstrate a satisfactory efficiency ratio and, to the extent possible and taking into account the operational context, partners will be assessed on their ability to work on the basis of common targeting criteria, single or interoperable beneficiary registries, a single payment mechanism, a common feedback mechanism and a common results framework. In line with the cash guidance note DG ECHO will expect partners to strive for segregation of duties and full transparency on the costs of implementation. For the delivery of smaller-scale cash transfers, DG ECHO will assess proposals paying particular attention the Guidance note's principles of coordination, harmonisation and multi-partner approach. A good efficiency ratio will also be expected for small-scale projects.

SYRIA

Programming priorities

In 2020, DG ECHO will continue to focus on responding to the life-saving needs and protection concerns of the most vulnerable persons inside Syria. Assistance must be delivered through the most appropriate modalities and entry points, in a timely, principled and quality manner, ensuring the provision of integrated and flexible life-saving assistance as well as coordinated and targeted multi-sectorial life-sustaining response.

Proposed interventions should be context-specific, **needs-based**, underpinned by a well-defined situation and response analysis, with access strategy and contingency/preparedness planning considerations clearly detailed and a sound risk analysis included. Robust primary needs assessments – in addition to and complementing the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) – and continuous needs monitoring arrangements aimed at responding to changes in the operational context must be clearly outlined. Adherence to the humanitarian principles, including the "do no harm" principle, should remain a cornerstone for all proposals.

In line with the need to ensure flexible and timely response to evolving needs and a volatile context, DG ECHO will continue to promote in-built multi-sectorial emergency response through its First Line Emergency Response (FLER) approach.

Unpredictable context development may result in restricted humanitarian access. In order to ensure the effective continuity of services to beneficiaries, partners are encouraged to factor this risk in their response and plan for operational contingency/preparedness in line with DG ECHO's FLER approach. Remote management could also be considered where appropriate and where duly justified.

Consideration will also be given to the support of protracted needs of IDPs and host communities to reach basic minimum standards where gaps in life-saving assistance exist. Partners are encouraged to propose the most relevant and cost-effective modality of intervention. Targeting based on needs and vulnerabilities criteria indicators will be required.

Emergency interventions to respond to newly as well as protracted life-saving needs of people living in camps will continue to be supported by DG ECHO. Holistic interventions based on a harmonized and coherent strategy for each sector of intervention and on a strong coordinated approach among implementing partners are strongly recommended

While a standard duration of 12 months is recommended for emergency Actions, longer Actions could be considered where a different timeframe would be operationally justified and necessary to achieve the expected outcomes.

Protection mainstreaming will remain of paramount importance to DG ECHO through all sectors of intervention. While this closely links to the 'do no harm' principle, it also includes prioritizing safety and dignity of beneficiaries and local populations, preventing causing and/or exacerbating harm, ensuring meaningful access, clear accountability, due diligence, genuine participation and empowerment. Partners must demonstrate the actual integration of these principles in all relevant sections of their proposals, in particular in the response strategy and in the logic of the intervention through relevant indicators.

Harmonized standard operating procedures and data protection safeguards need to be in place in order to consult and inform beneficiaries on the use of the data.

Advocacy could be supported both at field level and in international fora where it is based on strong evidence and clear operational objectives. Partners willing to carry out advocacy initiatives must share a detailed advocacy plan providing information on the activities to be undertaken and under which timeframe, resources required for implementation, expected outcomes, as well as potential risks and mitigation measures to be put in place. Advocacy initiatives must be conducted in the best interests of beneficiaries and pursue clear humanitarian and protection objectives. Partners should develop realistic, achievable and concrete advocacy plans and objectives, as well as specify the level at which advocacy activities should be undertaken. Advocacy should primarily focus on key protection issues, including violations of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Laws (IHL and IHRL), including issues related to humanitarian access, quality access, independent assessment, targeting and monitoring, protection of civilians including humanitarian workers and health staff, and civilian infrastructure such as schools and hospitals. Joint advocacy initiatives are also strongly encouraged (i.e. on behalf of a specific area or actors engaged in a specific sector).

Effective and transparent operational coordination, including inter-sector coordination - at community, hub and inter-hub levels - remains critical for all actions inside Syria and needs to

be reflected in all funding proposals. Efforts to strengthen coordination could also be supported where justified. Within the overall country strategy, a multi-purpose response requires a high level of coordination across sectors and agencies. Cost-efficiency gains should be optimized through effective operational coordination platforms aiming at the establishment of a single programme approach that streamlines assessments, targeting, joint delivery mechanisms and monitoring. These dimensions should be clearly addressed in all proposals.

Partnership, including duly justified capacity building, with local actors and implementing partners must be clearly explained, highlighting the nature and scope of the partnership, shared accountability and commitment to DG ECHO principles, management and monitoring arrangements, distinct budget lines and shared visibility obligations.

Accountability mechanisms should be enhanced through adequate Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) as well as Information Management (IM) capacities and systems aimed at quality evidence-based analysis and outcomes evaluation.

Thematic priorities

Humanitarian Food Assistance and Food Security

DG ECHO will consider inter-related food security interventions aiming at building an integrated approach from emergency response to early recovery programmes and possibly up to graduation through livelihood interventions (through direct implementation or strengthening the referral of beneficiaries between programmes).

DG ECHO will consider different modalities, including cash, voucher, e-voucher and in-kind, to respond to the basic needs of households. The modality of intervention must be justified through a sound and detailed decision tree analysis. Market assessments and Household Economic Analysis (HEA) are strongly recommended when feasible as part of the situation and risk analysis. When conditions are met, DG ECHO recommends cash/vouchers/e-vouchers as the default modality. Cash/vouchers are reputed as the optimal and preferable modality of intervention, in terms of dignity of beneficiaries, appropriateness, effectiveness, efficiency. Furthermore, in term of risk mitigation, appropriate tracking and digitalization of cash and e-vouchers systems can enhance transparency, accountability and harmonization of the response. The piloting of digitalized and possibly interoperable/shared platforms to test potential scale up of innovative cash solutions is encouraged.

Targeting of the most vulnerable households, based on integrated socio-economic criteria and protection indicators, is strongly recommended. Clear justification needs to be provided where a blanket approach is proposed (e.g. sudden onset emergency).

Partners are encouraged to develop inter-operable, non-proprietary, digitalized beneficiary platforms in a way that is safe, secure and improves humanitarian programming through enhanced accountability and taking into account data protection safeguards.

Partners should advocate for linkages between food assistance interventions and other sectors, e.g. Protection, Health, Nutrition, Education in Emergencies outcomes, including immediate practical actions to adequate feeding and care practices.

Partners should clearly identify food gaps and include relevant food outcomes related Key Objective Indicators (KOIs) and Key Result Indicators (KRIs). Partners should also be able to demonstrate the capacity to report on SMART outcome indicators in terms of basic needs improvement, preferably aligned with Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) Cluster recommendations.

1. Emergency Assistance: Food assistance interventions will be prioritized to ensure immediate access to the necessary food commodities as a life-saving response to severe, transitory food insecurity. Assistance should preferably be delivered as part of an integrated and comprehensive response to cover basic needs, as defined by the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), and aiming for greater efficiency and effectiveness. Effective timeliness of the response must be ensured. In principle, such response should be supported for a period of up to three months with a clear indication of integration or referral of targeted caseload to more durable, appropriate solutions whenever it is feasible.
2. Life-sustaining Multi-purpose Assistance: Following emergency or within protracted emergency setting, these interventions should aim to ensure immediate access to the most urgent and basic needs, as defined by the SMEB. Timeframe and targeting should be defined and aligned with FSL Cluster recommendations. Any conditionality proposed should be duly justified according to the specific vulnerabilities of the targeted group.
3. Emergency Livelihood: These interventions should aim at graduating beneficiaries from their dependency to humanitarian assistance and promoting increased market access by restoring livelihood and incomes of targeted households. Activities could include; promotion of diversification of productive assets and practices, strengthening livelihood opportunities and value chains that are critical to food security, as well as restoration of assets and income generating activities and creation of new economic opportunities in urban and rural areas.

Protection

DG ECHO places the protection of affected populations at the centre of its response. DG ECHO will prioritize protection responses, ranging from status and protection of individuals, prevention of and response to violence (including GBV and torture), assistance to specific vulnerable groups, including Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and the elderly, Child Protection, humanitarian mine action, access to documentation and information management.

Interventions designed to reduce and mitigate the protection risks of man-made violence, coercion, deprivation and abuse of persons inside Syria could be supported in the form of stand-alone or integrated programmes aimed at achieving protection outcomes through other programme activities and protection-sensitive targeting. It is important to highlight that considering the limited coverage of specialized protection services in Syria, DG ECHO will support the roll out or strengthening of specialized protection services, including those to address complex cases.

Decisions on specific activities proposed will have to be based on an up-to-date and comprehensive protection risk analysis but also on capacities and expertise demonstrated by partners to provide quality services in a do no harm approach. These dimensions must be specifically described in the proposals. Partners are expected to contribute to a comprehensive service mapping and referral mechanism within their specific areas of intervention.

Additionally, in order to ensure capacity and quality of programming, DG ECHO strongly encourages partners to include a capacity-building component within their funding proposal, including through a dedicated resource and a capacity building plan.

DG ECHO promotes protection interventions' impact assessments and evaluations as they allow quality improvement as well as a monitoring of the relevance of the proposed action.

In order to ensure adequate service provision and in locations where a thorough risk analysis has been conducted, DG ECHO could also consider cash assistance as part of specialized service provision, for example as a part of the case management process. Cash within

protection interventions will only be considered when the partner can demonstrate that a protection outcome from the use of cash can be guaranteed.

Where appropriate, partners should ensure linkages with other relevant sectors, such as Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Psycho-Social Support (PSS) within health interventions, Child Protection and case management - or referral to specialized services - within Education in Emergencies programmes, security of tenure within Shelter interventions, etc. Linkages should include cross-sectorial referrals.

Specific protection interventions that can be considered for funding include, amongst others:

- **Prevention and response to violence:** Assistance to victims of any kind of violence, including SGBV, could be supported. All proposed activities should entail, as a minimum, identification, referral and basic response and consider safety options for survivors. Particular modalities which will be supported include:
 - Case management for SGBV survivors (full package, including conflict related SGBV prevention activities and legal awareness);
 - Psycho-Social Support (PSS) to enhance the well-being of individuals and communities. Activities for both individuals and at the community level could be supported. All PSS activities will need to demonstrate an improvement in well-being through relevant and SMART indicators.

- **Child Protection:** Partners willing to engage in child protection activities must have demonstrated capacities in adequate child protection case management inside Syria and in line with international child protection case management guidelines and child safeguarding measures.
 - For children at risks: case-management, including Best Interest Assessment (BIA) and alternative care arrangements (where possible) as well as family tracing and reunification to the extent possible. Unaccompanied and separated children/minors (UAMs) are a particularly vulnerable category.
 - For children in other situations of neglect or abuse: community-based interventions and case management.
 - Assistance to children engaged in armed forces or armed groups (CAFAAG), Activities which involve engagement and dialogue on issues related to child recruitment could be supported.
 - Specialized services for complex child protection cases will be considered if the partner can demonstrate adequate access and capacity to deliver a quality intervention.

- **Humanitarian Mine Action:**
 - Considering the degree of contamination by Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) – such as land-mines, Unexploded Ordnances (UXOs) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) - a comprehensive approach to Humanitarian Mine Action will be considered. This can include humanitarian demining/removal, assessment, mapping and marking, as well as assistance to victims. Risk Education and information on contamination will be considered either as a stand-alone project or as part of an integrated programme. A particular focus will be put on clearance activities and victims' assistance wherever partners have the expertise and ability to do so.
 - Awareness-raising will be prioritized and should include basic information on risks, as well as service provision. Specifically, the provision of information to affected populations will be prioritized. Moreover, any information sharing and/or basic

counselling activities during emergency phases that focused on providing awareness on potential risks will be prioritized.

- **Access to documentation:**
 - Registration;
 - Family tracing and reunification;
 - Access to civil documentation (among others) and legal assistance. House Land and Propriety-related interventions (HLP) will not be covered by DG ECHO protection funding, but HLP considerations should be taken into account and properly integrated in all shelter programmes.
- **Information Management** such as, but not limited to, population movement tracking, including returns, protection monitoring and protection assessment.
- Emphasis on the **dissemination and compliance with IHL and IHRL**, including activities related to mobilization and persuasion.
- **For people deprived of their liberty:**
 - Monitoring of detention conditions will be supported for partners engaging in response to detention. Partners should consider activities which contribute to maintain family links.
 - Provision of basic services or protection specific services in detention conditions and to others deprived of their liberty.
 - Specific Mental Health/Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) interventions targeting victims of torture and abuse, including people deprived of their liberty.

Health

DG ECHO will consider actions aiming at improving access to quality basic health services for the most vulnerable population, including war-wounded victims, and ensuring the continuity of services.

Specifically:

- Comprehensive **Primary Health Care** (PHC), following the Essential Primary Health Care Package as defined by the Health Cluster. This includes the provision of services for communicable diseases but also preventive and cost-efficient care for non-communicable diseases. Maternal and child care should be addressed, including Ante- and Post-Natal Care (ANC/PNC) as well as screening and ensuring treatment for under-nutrition. Mobile clinics should be complementary to health facilities as last resort.
- Coordinated scale up of accessible and sustainable **mental health** services, supporting MH-GAP, and community-based approach should be enhanced.
- Emergency, life-saving and comprehensive medical care for war wounded, including first line response, trauma, surgical, psychological, post-operative and rehabilitation services. It may include strengthening referrals, ambulances and dispatch systems. Services targeting war victims should include early prevention/treatment of disabilities and address the needs of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).
- Comprehensive care for victims of GBV, both male and female, including Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) and Psycho Social Support (PSS), should be integrated as much as possible in all proposed health facilities.
- The functionality and contribution to both disease surveillance systems (EWARN and/or EWARS) should be systematically assessed and reinforced if needed.

- Partners should ensure that WASH and Protection considerations are duly integrated within Health services, respecting the “do no harm” principle (i.e. medical waste). All health facilities should be inclusive.
- Procurement and provision of health supplies would need to follow DG ECHO rules and regulations, ensuring their quality.
- Measures to address shortage of qualified medical staff such as capacity building can also be considered.

WASH, Shelter and Non Food Items (NFIs)

DG ECHO will prioritize proposals clearly embedding an integrated programming approach, targeting emergency life-saving humanitarian needs, and based on linkages between WASH, Health, Shelter, CCCM and Protection. This includes supporting emergency life-saving responses, with the ability to rapidly transition to more durable and life-sustaining interventions.

Costs in WASH, Shelter and NFIs interventions need to be justified according to technical specificities, and including minimum quantity and quality standards as per international guidelines (e.g. SPHERE standards).

Safe water supply

1. *Community level light rehabilitation and repair of existing water supply services*, integrating community participation and ownership. Rehabilitation of water infrastructure should be supported by a quality assurance mechanism that includes needs and damages assessments, a description of required works (based on damages) and costs estimates. More detailed documentation in terms of technical designs, technical specifications, and related BoQ will have to be provided before the execution of works and will be regularly verified by DG ECHO at the monitoring stage. Partners should also provide Water Safety Plans (WSP), Operation and Maintenance plans (O&M), as well as what is foreseen in order to strengthen technical capacity at local level. Requirements for power (energy needs) to operate any water network should be specified and considered in O&M plans. Partners must demonstrate their capacity to assess the impact of investments to water systems, by providing data related to improvement of access and availability based on pre- and post-implementation status of the system. A mapping of the water infrastructure should be provided in order to justify the choice and area of intervention.
2. *Water trucking* should be envisaged as a last resort response and with a defined exit strategy. Partners are encouraged to explore alternative options to water trucking (e.g. rain water harvesting systems, boreholes, WSP focus on ensuring safe, drinkable water throughout the safe water chain, from source to point of consumption), and invest in such solutions to reduce the overall dependency on water trucking, while ensuring better cost-efficiency and sustainability of the intervention. No water trucking activities will be accepted without a quality water monitoring protocol.
3. Transport and storage solutions, also at household level, could also be considered.
4. *Reverse osmosis plants* could be considered if no other water solution is possible, and in case of chemical contamination. Coverage, costs and effectiveness of this type of system will be analysed on a case-by-case basis.

Sanitation

1. Sanitation interventions in camps will be prioritized, provided that emergency needs are demonstrated. A maintenance plan should be included in all proposals. Community incentives may be considered for maintenance and cleaning of sanitation facilities
2. Waste water management and/or solid waste management can be supported, where partners can demonstrate its direct relation to of life-threatening health conditions and risks such as communicable diseases.

3. While stand-alone Hygiene Promotion (HP) activities will not be considered, within a water and sanitation project HP could be considered if supported by a detailed HP strategy, based on harmonized messages and communication channels in line with the country-specific WASH Cluster guideline.

Hygiene kits

Distribution of hygiene items through different modalities (in-kind, cash or vouchers) will be considered in case of emergency needs (e.g. new displacements) and based on targeting of the most vulnerable households. Clear justifications need to be provided where blanket approaches are proposed (e.g. large sudden emergency).

Shelter, NFIs and winterization

For Shelter/NFIs and winterization, emergency interventions will be prioritized. Partners will have to demonstrate their ability to target the most vulnerable households within a given community, even in emergency settings and responses. Clear justification needs to be provided where a blanket approach would be proposed (e.g. sudden onset emergency).

Specifically, Shelter/NFIs and winterization support will be prioritized for:

1. Distribution of tents, sealing-of kits, shelter kits (related tools and material) for recently displaced persons;
2. CCCM support to camps, informal settlements and collective centres;
3. Rapid and light repairs of individual buildings and houses aiming at accommodating the most vulnerable families could be considered where those are clearly life-saving and small scale. Proposals should clearly mention the average cost of light rehabilitation per shelter/unit, which cannot exceed the cost per family defined by the Shelter/NFIs Cluster guidelines. The selection of buildings/houses should be based on specific vulnerability criteria, protection considerations and not be status-based. Light repairs of the building where the selected individual houses are located and light interventions of some collective spaces in the area of intervention could be considered if duly justified under protection and safe access concerns.
4. Light rehabilitation of collective shelters could also be considered if duly justified by the emergency nature of the crisis and provided that sustained access to the shelters is assured.
5. Distribution of NFIs will be considered if grounds for emergency response are demonstrated. Actions must prioritize support to operations which target the most vulnerable households with clearly identified humanitarian needs. Clear justifications need to be provided where blanket approaches are proposed (e.g. sudden emergency). Proposals should foster the integration between NFIs/hygiene kits distribution and other sectors (inter-sectorial coordination and integration). In any such cases, the design of the proposal should reflect the actual possibilities to implement, monitor and collect evidences.

Housing, Land and Property (HLP) rights must be integrated and considered all along shelter interventions.

Conditions/damage assessment and measures to accommodate the needs of people with special needs (including PwDs and reflecting gender specific needs) must be included and addressed in the proposal. For any cash/voucher modality targeting shelter, NFIs and winterization needs, a clear and detailed plan is required (including market analysis, quality and availability of items, post distribution monitoring, etc.). The overall cost per family or individual should not exceed that defined by the Shelter/NFIs/winterization cluster guidelines.

Education in Emergencies (EiE)

DG ECHO's support will focus on contributing to the reintegration of out-of-school children (OOSC) into primary and secondary school education in areas where the de facto OOSC population is high, as well as areas where education services have been disrupted by the conflict. Within this context, Non-Formal Education (NFE) activities, including support to not accredited education services, will be prioritized and must provide pathways for the most vulnerable children to enter/re-enter the formal education system. NFE support may include catch-up classes, Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALP), homework support, self-learning activities, or any course designed to meet the needs of OOSC returning to primary or secondary school. Former OOSC now enrolled in formal schooling but who are unable to effectively attend classes may be provided with NFE to successfully reintegrate formal education. Integration of Child Protection activities will be essential prerequisite to all EiE funding proposals, including Psycho-Social Support (PSS), social/emotional support, documentation support and where possible case management or referral pathways for children in need of specialized services where those cannot be provided by the partner. Capacity Building of teachers to deliver EiE or Child Protection activities will be also supported where duly justified and where capacities are demonstrated.

Light repairs (i.e. not related to structural damages) to school facilities/learning spaces and rehabilitation of basic WASH services in schools can also be considered, to ensure a minimum standard of safety and protection for children returning to school and where this is undertaken with the clear objective to ensure service provision to children. Light repair will only be accepted as part of a more comprehensive NFE intervention to allow OOSC to go back to schools that have closed or been disrupted for several months or years due to the conflict. These activities should be time-bound, with clear entry criteria and an exit strategy. Light repair of school facilities/learning spaces should be supported by a quality assurance mechanism that includes detailed technical documents, notably needs and damages assessment, cost estimates, description of works. More detailed documentation in terms of BoQ will have to be provided before the execution of works and will be regularly verified by DG ECHO at monitoring stage.

Barriers to OOSC returning to education should be addressed based on prioritized needs (e.g. PSS, teaching and learning materials). Cash for Education or the inclusion of Education costs in the SMEB may be considered where a needs assessment demonstrates cash is appropriate to addressing barriers to Education. Any cash activities should be coordinated with the relevant Cash Working Group and Education Cluster (or other relevant actors).

DG ECHO will support the roll-out of the Safe Schools Declaration to school level to protect education from attack. This may involve partnership with non-education actors to prevent occupation of learning spaces and attacks on education facilities and actors. Coordinated support to develop evidence-based approaches to address attacks on Education will be considered. Safe schools and safe routes to or from schools (including humanitarian demining) may also be supported. Support to emergency action plans or contingency plans that include Education in areas affected by active conflict and population displacement will be considered.

Actions proposed should be aligned to the INEE Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies. Adherence to Conflict Sensitive Education principles and the establishment of strong child safeguarding mechanisms will be required in all supported actions. Partners should be active members of Education and Child Protection structures and should avail of existing resources/materials rather than designing new courses where possible. DG ECHO may consider direct support to coordination structures at top level where capacities are limited and needs are identified.

EiE actions that are integrated in multi-sectorial emergency responses (when relevant) will be supported.

The duration of EiE actions can be up to 24 months, with a view to allow partners to support the transition of children back into the formal system.

First Line Emergency Response:

Partners may consider to include within their action a separate emergency Result on *First Line Emergency Response* – FLER under the DG ECHO sector Disaster Risk Reduction/Disaster Preparedness. This FLER Result will aim to respond to newly emergency needs through the provision of lifesaving multi-sectoral assistance.

This proposed Result should:

- Be designed to provide an early lifesaving multi-sectoral and flexible assistance in the aftermath of a rapid onset crisis;
- Be based on an Emergency Preparedness and Response plan, considering prepositioning of stocks and resources, process for decision, triggers for engagement/disengagement, activities, and sectors of intervention;
- Duration should be limited in time and be triggered within a few days from the alert;
- Timeliness of response is a key element for effectiveness. Partners should adopt standardized indicators to measure the timeframe required to deliver assistance.

This Result can be activated in two situations:

1. Selected areas of intervention where a DG ECHO action is already ongoing: in case of sudden emergency needs not directly covered by DG ECHO action, the activation of the FLER modality will allow to fill the time gap while waiting for additional resources to be deployed
2. Pre-identified areas where emergencies can occur and where the partner can have access in case of sudden emergencies

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Information Management (IM)

DG ECHO will only consider proposals paying particular attention to M&E and IM components that both build upon and help improve existing capabilities and systems in accordance with guidelines and standards adopted by inter-agency working groups. In this respect, M&E and IM tools should be:

- Harmonized and compatible in order to enable IM and M&E systems to produce comparable information and data.
- Time-sensitive in order to allow for appropriate analysis of information/data, early emergency response, and decision-making when and if programme adjustments are required as well as the development of a solid base of lessons learnt that should feedback into the programme cycle and help inform longer-term strategies.
- Efficient and cost-effective, making full use of existing capacities and technical/technological resources. The use of new, additional capabilities or resources must be clearly justified.

LEBANON

Programming priorities

Building on the objectives set out in previous DG ECHO strategies, programming priorities in 2020 will remain to strengthen the protection space and dignity of the refugees seeking safety

in Lebanon. Within this context, the strategy will be an integral part of the broader EU response in Lebanon and be designed in synergy with interventions funded under other EU instruments.

In 2020, DG ECHO will build upon the operational response implemented under the HIP 2019, further strengthening the focus on protection, integrated and multi-sectoral approaches as well as evidenced-based humanitarian analysis and advocacy. The 2020 strategy will continue to focus on two key programming pillars:

- a. Protracted basic needs – through Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to address the socio-economic vulnerability of the most vulnerable refugees;
- b. Acute and sudden needs - through integrated multi-sectorial response to address needs at community, household and individual levels. Specific protection programming will be favoured for targeting specific individuals facing protection threats or vulnerabilities.

Partners should demonstrate the cost effectiveness of the proposed actions through enhanced synergies and adequate coordination and pooling of resources with other actors. Accountability towards affected populations will also need to be demonstrated, including through protection mainstreaming.

Protection mainstreaming will remain of paramount importance to DG ECHO – in all sectors and objectives. While this closely links to the 'do no harm' principle, it also includes prioritising safety and dignity of beneficiaries and local populations, preventing causing and/or exacerbating harm, ensuring meaningful access, clear accountability, due diligence, genuine participation and empowerment. Partners must demonstrate the actual integration of these principles in all relevant sections of their proposals, in particular in the response strategy and logic of the intervention sections and indicators.

Thematic priorities

Multi-Purpose Assistance

DG ECHO considers multi-purpose assistance (MPA) to be the most effective modality of addressing chronic, structural socio-economic vulnerabilities in Lebanon. DG ECHO will continue to enhance the multi-purpose response in Lebanon in line with the Grand Bargain commitments and the DG ECHO Cash guidance note. The principles of efficiency and cost-effectiveness, accountability and protection as well as consistent governance and sound operational structure, remain key elements to ensure that the needs of beneficiaries remain central to the response. Integration of critical learning from the ongoing work in terms of Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning should be duly considered in the overall design of any MPCA action.

The current Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance scheme will be re-conducted in 2020, with the intent to facilitate a progressive transition towards more sustainable funding schemes and livelihood strategies. To ensure an effective transition, DG ECHO will focus on strengthening the coordination among the stakeholders concerned, as well as further review and fine-tune technical aspects of the ongoing action.

Integrated and multi-sectoral response to acute and sudden needs

While structural and chronic needs will be addressed by the Basic Needs Assistance programme and close coordination and synergies with other EU instruments, DG ECHO will prioritise coordinated, inter-sectorial and integrated projects that address acute and urgent needs.

Humanitarian response must be comprehensive and integrated. It must be anchored to a strong context analysis of threats, vulnerabilities and capacities. This analysis should specifically consider both external threats to the target population as well as community's coping strategies, while at the same time balancing any protection concern. Based on this risk analysis, DG ECHO partners must propose integrated and multi-sectorial responses at community and household levels, ideally where protection actions contribute to addressing needs in other sectors and where other sector actions mitigate or increase resilience to protection risks. Supported actions should also demonstrate capacities to adapt and respond to arising sudden shocks or proven deterioration into emergency situations.

Humanitarian engagement and advocacy remains essential for DG ECHO. Partners are expected to engage in strong analysis and advocacy through their action; aiming at strengthening effectiveness and accountability of the humanitarian response at all levels.

Effective coordination is essential and must be demonstrated by partners through their active engagement in the existing coordination mechanisms, and by effectively building programmatic synergies and complementarities.

Protection

Focus on protection is a key feature of DG ECHO's strategy in Lebanon, to provide refugees with improved access to protection, legal assistance and quality services. Protection monitoring will only be considered when it provides an evidence-based trend analysis and informs direct programming and coordinated advocacy efforts. Protection monitoring activities should always be complemented by response activities, most notably the provision of information and referrals. Sudden rapid protection assessment capacity can be considered depending on the area of intervention/ future developments.

Protection interventions will be supported through the following modalities:

- Legal assistance – provision of specific protection services, including access to documentation, legal assistance and counselling when based on sound identification of needs, identifying the most appropriate response modality and through demonstrated capacities.
- Case management protection services will be considered when based on an individual protection assessment and if in line with international case management guidelines. Community activities as an entry point may be considered if there is a correlation for identification of cases.
- Psychosocial support activities will be supported if the partner can demonstrate specific needs in a location or issues of access to MHPSS services. PSS activities must be based on a structure that allows the partner to actually measure improvements in well-being. PSS activities can be delivered to both individuals and groups. Activities will only be supported for partners with demonstrated capacities, including capacities to run integrated programmes.
- Refugee recording and verification activities, as well as underlying evidence-based analysis linked to performance of related activities (effectiveness, accountability) and to the link between refugee status, vulnerability and timely access to humanitarian assistance.

Utilisation of cash in protection programming must have a clear protection outcome and will not be supported unless embedded within one of the above modalities (legal assistance/case management or accompaniment) and within a wider comprehensive and integrated protection response.

Education in Emergencies (EiE)

Specific needs of the most vulnerable out-of-school children (OOSC) will be addressed through quality and appropriate non-formal education activities. These activities should facilitate the eventual access of children to formal education and enhance resilience. Activities in this sector should complement and in principle be integrated with multi-sector response that will tackle barriers to education from multiple angles - primarily protection and basic needs response - with the aim of mitigating the main economic and legal causes that limit access to formal education. All EiE actions should include child protection response, including referrals to and from protection activities, and the provision of psycho-social support for children. Strong monitoring of education and protection outcomes is required. All proposals must be closely coordinated and compliant with education sector SOPs and guidance. Evidence-based analysis must be built in EiE programming to allow for advocacy on barriers.

Coordination and advocacy

DG ECHO will support coordination and advocacy mechanisms if operationalised within integrated and coordinated strategic partnership frameworks. Development of robust information management systems will be supported if they lead to informed programming decisions and evidence-based advocacy. In this regard, coordination should essentially be articulated as a structural means to improve the timeliness, inclusiveness, transparency and connectedness of proposed actions within existing coordination set-ups. Advocacy will be supported when it is based on evidence collected through DG ECHO-funded programming. Partners wishing to engage in advocacy should be prepared to submit an advocacy plan that is able to provide more information on key issues, messaging, target audience, tools, expected outcomes, potential risks and mitigation measures.

JORDAN**Programming priorities**

Despite the protracted nature of the crisis, the evolution of the context and the opening to transitional/Nexus paths, humanitarian aid remains vital in certain niche interventions and sectors.

DG ECHO's priorities in 2020 will continue to focus on the provision of timely, adequate and appropriate humanitarian assistance to persons stranded in border areas as well as to refugees living in camps and/or in hosting communities based on vulnerability assessments. In 2020 DG ECHO will support the following thematic priorities:

Thematic priorities***Protection***

Protection should be addressed systematically in all proposals, preferably as part of an integrated programming approach. DG ECHO could consider activities aiming at:

- Providing support to civil and legal documentation with a view to enable refugees to access services.
- Providing specialized protection services for vulnerable individuals or groups at risk due to specific discrimination or risk factors.
- Related advocacy.

Proposed target groups for the intervention could include people living in transit centres, camps, host communities as well as those stranded at the Berm.

DG ECHO will consider funding specific protection interventions among the following:

At the Berm and in transit centres:

- Advocacy for refugees' access to the Jordanian territory, prevention of *refoulement* as well as principled humanitarian assistance delivery to Syrian asylum seekers and refugees;
- Advocating for durable solution for those stranded at the Berm.

In camp settings:

- Activities to ensure that a robust screening and referral system is in place to capture and track all types of protection cases, and follow up of referred cases ensuring access to services;
- Advocacy towards the camp management and relevant Jordanian authorities to expedite refugees' screening in Azraq camp, thus guaranteeing freedom of movement and access to the necessary services including basic needs, health and protection;
- While GBV issues could be addressed, related services must be integrated within Reproductive Health (RH) services where possible.
- Specialized protection services to children – such services should focus on particularly at risk children and should be provided by partners with demonstrated capacities and according to international guidelines.

In host communities:

- Provision of protection services, especially for refugees lacking proper documentation and/or registration, to enable access to all available services;
- Address legal support and/or accompaniment of protection cases beyond basic legal advice;
- Specialized protection services to specific at risk groups – such services should focus on particularly at risk groups or individuals, and should be provided by partners with demonstrated capacities and according to international guidelines.

Basic-Needs Assistance

After close to a decade of continued humanitarian assistance, opportunities to consider more developmental approaches to the crisis exist. Within this context, DG ECHO is in the process of transitioning the Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) programme from humanitarian financing to other EU development financial instruments. Nevertheless, DG ECHO will keep its involvement in the social protection safety net discussions, currently discussed among the Cash Donor Group, the World Bank and Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC). The Government of Jordan is investing in improving social assistance for increasingly-vulnerable citizens in its National Aid Fund (NAF) cash transfer scheme and has recently announced its Social Protection Strategy for 2019-2025. In addition, an evidence-based study on cash assistance to refugees is expected in the near future to inform and enable the Ministry of Social Development on a possible opening for a refugee window. Given this scenario, and in case multi-purpose cash assistance programme transitions to other EU development financial instruments, DG ECHO would discontinue such funding.

Protection monitoring and referral systems are privileged mechanisms to ensure that the needs of those most vulnerable are addressed and are not falling through the cracks.

Health

Since April 2019, due to the financing of the Ministry of Health's Multi-Donor Account, Syrian refugees can again access health services in hospitals and health centres run by the Jordanian Ministry of Health (MoH) at the same price of Jordanians not benefitting from a health insurance on the condition that they can demonstrate holding both UNHCR documentation and a registration card from the Ministry of Interior. Against that

background, DG ECHO will consider funding specific health interventions among the following:

In host communities

- Specific interventions could be proposed for immediate life-saving needs in specific locations or where critical gaps in essential healthcare service provision for refugees are justified.

In camp settings

- Proposals ensuring that refugees, including newly arrived refugees, have access to direct health services according to their needs will be prioritised.
- Activities aimed at ensuring that functioning, robust referral mechanisms capture and track information will be considered. The methodology to capture, track and follow-up referred cases until their completion must be described in proposals (e.g. type of cases disaggregated by age/sex, waiting times especially for chronic conditions or elective surgery, end result, etc.).

Shelter & NFIs

DG ECHO could consider funding specific emergency interventions among the following:

In host community

- Timely winterization activities based on a sound targeting methodology focusing on the most vulnerable

The use of **cash-based and/or in-kind (NFIs)** distribution modalities, where it is supported by a comparative analysis and takes into account cost effectiveness and efficiency considerations, could be considered by DG ECHO.

WASH is not identified as a priority sector for funding in 2020, although specific activities could be proposed would immediate life-saving needs arise in specific locations.

Education in Emergencies

DG ECHO will support education activities that support vulnerable refugees to enter, re-enter or be retained in formal education. This may involve Non-Formal Education (NFE) support to provide pathways for children to transition into Formal Education (FE), or support to children to directly enter and be retained in Formal Education. Specifically, DG ECHO will consider supporting education activities both in host communities and in refugee camps which meet following criteria:

- Levels of education to be targeted by proposals are: primary and secondary.
- Proposed EiE activities should include an analysis of the barriers faced by vulnerable refugees in Jordan in accessing and succeeding in their education.
- EiE proposals should include activities to support the protection needs of children so that they can participate in education, including referral pathways for children in need of specialized protection services. Any proposed activity must be tailored to take into account the different needs of children based on their age, gender and other circumstances, including disabilities, early-married girls and young mothers.
- Coordination arrangements must be detailed. Partners should adhere to Conflict Sensitive Education principles and align to INEE Minimum Standards for EiE.
- Coordination with development programmes and alignment with national education sector plan.