

TECHNICAL ANNEX

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

The provisions of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2021/01000 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).

1. CONTACTS

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2. FINANCIAL INFO

Indicative Allocation: EUR 144 000 000 of which an indicative amount of EUR 11 500 000 for Education in Emergencies.

In line with DG ECHO's commitment to the Grand Bargain, pilot programmatic partnerships have been launched in 2020 with a limited number of partners (in direct management). New pilot programmatic partnerships could be envisaged in 2021 with partners in indirect management. Part of this HIP may therefore be awarded to these new pilot programmatic partnerships.

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

Country/Region	Action (a) Man-made crises and natural disasters	Action (b) Initial emergency response/ small - scale/ epidemics	Action (c) Disaster Preparedness	Actions (d) to (h) Transport / Complementary activities	TOTAL
Venezuela	70 000 000	0	0	0	70 000 000
Colombia	10 000 000	0	2 000 000	0	12 000 000
Central America	8 000 000	0	4 000 000	0	12 000 000
Haiti	11 500 000	0	2 500 000	0	14 000 000
Caribbean	2 500 000	0	3 000 000	0	5 500 000
South America	25 500 000	0	5 000 000	0	30 500 000

3. PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT

a) Co-financing:

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).

b) Financial support to third parties (implementing partners)

Pursuant to Art. 204 FR, for the implementation of actions under this HIP, partners may provide financial support to third parties, e.g. implementing partners. This financial support can only exceed EUR 60 000 if the objectives of the action would otherwise be impossible or excessively difficult to achieve. Such situations can occur in cases where only a limited number of non-profit non-governmental

organisations have the capacity, skills or expertise to contribute to the implementation of the action or are established in the country of operation or in the region(s) where the action takes place.

Ensuring broad geographical/worldwide coverage while minimising costs and avoiding duplications concerning in particular presence in country, prompted many humanitarian organisations to network, e.g. through families or confederations. In such a context, the situations referred to above would imply that the partner would rely on other members of the network. In such cases, justification must be provided in the Single Form.

c) Alternative arrangements

In case of country or crisis-specific issues or unforeseeable circumstances which arise during the implementation of the action, the Commission (DG ECHO) may issue specific ad-hoc instructions which partners must follow. Partners may also introduce via the Single Form duly justified requests for alternative arrangements to be agreed by the Commission (DG ECHO) in accordance with Annex 5 to the Grant Agreement.

d) Field office costs

Costs for use of the field office during the action are eligible and may be declared as unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions for such unit costs and the amount per unit is calculated:

i. using the actual costs for the field office recorded in the beneficiary's accounts, attributed at the rate of office use and excluding any cost which are ineligible or already included in other budget categories; the actual costs may be adjusted on the basis of budgeted or estimated elements, if they are relevant for calculating the costs, reasonable and correspond to objective and verifiable information

and

ii. according to usual cost accounting practices which are applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding.

3.1. Administrative info

Allocation round 1 - Venezuela

Indicative amount: up to EUR 30 000 000:

- Support to interventions addressing the humanitarian consequences of complex crises in Venezuela and in the region (up to EUR 27 000 000);
- Education in Emergencies (up to EUR 3 000 000).

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.

- c) Costs will be eligible from 1/1/2021²
- d) 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. In view of the transition towards the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, the new Single Form and the Model Grant Agreement, it will not be possible to present follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations, as modification requests for the first allocation round of the 2021 HIP. All funding requests will need to be submitted as new proposals on the basis of the Single Form 2021. The above provision does not apply to pilot Programmatic Partnerships which have started in 2020 and for which a modification request remains the norm.
- e) Potential partners³: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form⁴
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 8 February 2021.

Allocation round 2 - Colombia

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 12 000 000
 - Support to interventions addressing the humanitarian consequences of man-made crises in Colombia and in the region (up to EUR 9 000 000);
 - Education in Emergencies (up to EUR 1 000 000);
 - Disaster Preparedness/resilience interventions (up to EUR 2 000 000).
- 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.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1 January 2021.⁵
- d) 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. In view of the transition towards the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, the new Single Form and the Model Grant Agreement, it will not be possible to present follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations, as modification requests for the first allocation round of the 2021 HIP. All funding requests will need to be submitted as new proposals on the basis of the Single Form 2021. The above provision does not apply to pilot Programmatic Partnerships which have started in 2020 and for which a modification request remains the norm.
- e) Potential partners⁶: All DG ECHO Partners

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 Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

⁴ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

⁵ 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 Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

- f) Information to be provided: Single Form⁷
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 8 February 2021.⁸

Allocation round 3 – Central America

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 12 000 000
 - Support to interventions addressing the humanitarian consequences of OSV and food insecurity: up to EUR 5 000 000
 - Education in Emergencies: up to EUR 3 000 000
 - Disaster Preparedness/resilience interventions: up to EUR 4 000 000
- 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.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1 January 2021.⁹
- d) 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. In view of the transition towards the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, the new Single Form and the Model Grant Agreement, it will not be possible to present follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations, as modification requests for the first allocation round of the 2021 HIP. All funding requests will need to be submitted as new proposals on the basis of the Single Form 2021. The above provision does not apply to pilot Programmatic Partnerships which have started in 2020 and for which a modification request remains the norm.
- e) Potential partners¹⁰: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form¹¹
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 8 February 2021.¹²

Allocation round 4 – Haiti

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 6 000 000
 - Support to interventions addressing the humanitarian consequences of the crisis in Haiti: up to EUR 3 500 000

⁷ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

¹¹ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

¹² 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.

- Disaster Preparedness/resilience interventions: up to EUR 2 500 000
- 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.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1 January 2021.¹³
- h) 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. In view of the transition towards the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, the new Single Form and the Model Grant Agreement, it will not be possible to present follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations, as modification requests for the first allocation round of the 2021 HIP. All funding requests will need to be submitted as new proposals on the basis of the Single Form 2021. The above provision does not apply to pilot Programmatic Partnerships which have started in 2020 and for which a modification request remains the norm.
- d) Potential partners¹⁴: All DG ECHO Partners
- e) Information to be provided: Single Form¹⁵
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 8 February 2021.¹⁶

Allocation round 5 – Caribbean

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 4 000 000
 - Support to humanitarian operations in the Caribbean: up to EUR 500 000
 - Education in Emergencies: up to EUR 500 000
 - Disaster Preparedness/resilience interventions: up to EUR 3 000 000
- 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.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1 January 2021.¹⁷
- i) 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. In view of the transition towards the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, the new Single Form and the Model

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

¹⁵ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

¹⁶ 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.

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.

Grant Agreement, it will not be possible to present follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations, as modification requests for the first allocation round of the 2021 HIP. All funding requests will need to be submitted as new proposals on the basis of the Single Form 2021. The above provision does not apply to pilot Programmatic Partnerships which have started in 2020 and for which a modification request remains the norm.

- d) Potential partners¹⁸: All DG ECHO Partners
- e) Information to be provided: Single Form¹⁹
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 10 February 2020.²⁰

Allocation round 6 – South America

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 16 000 000
 - Support to humanitarian operations in South America: up to EUR 7 000 000
 - Education in Emergencies: up to EUR 4 000 000
 - Disaster Preparedness/resilience interventions: 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.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1 January 2021.²¹
- d) 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. In view of the transition towards the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, the new Single Form and the Model Grant Agreement, it will not be possible to present follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations, as modification requests for the first allocation round of the 2021 HIP. All funding requests will need to be submitted as new proposals on the basis of the Single Form 2021. The above provision does not apply to pilot Programmatic Partnerships which have started in 2020 and for which a modification request remains the norm.
- e) Potential partners²²: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form²³

¹⁸ Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

¹⁹ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

²⁰ 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.

²¹ 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.

²² Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

²³ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 8 February 2021²⁴

Allocation round 7 - Haiti food crisis

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 8 million.
- Support to Food Assistance/Nutrition interventions: EUR 8 000 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to section 0 of the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2.2.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1 February 2021²⁵.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 12 months.
- e) Potential partners: DG ECHO Partners which submitted proposals under assessment round 4 of this HIP pre-selected as a priority and not yet funded.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form²⁶
- g) Proposals received in the framework of assessment round 4 of this HIP (Deadline established for the 08/02/2021).

Allocation round 8 - Venezuela

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 40 000 000
- Support to interventions addressing the food crisis and the related humanitarian consequences of complex crises in Venezuela and in the region.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to section 0 of the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2.2.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1 April 2021.²⁷
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months. 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.

²⁴ 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.

²⁵ 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.

²⁶ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

²⁷ 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: DG ECHO Partners having submitted proposals under assessment round 1 of this HIP pre-selected as a priority and not yet funded.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form²⁸
- g) Proposals received in the framework of assessment round 1 of this HIP (Deadline established for the 08/02/2021).

Allocation round 9 – OR COVID-19 South America and the Caribbean

- a) Indicative amount: EUR 16 000 000
 - a. Indicative allocation per sub-region:
 - i. Dominican Republic EUR 1 500 000
 - ii. Andean Countries (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru): EUR 9 000 000
 - iii. Southern Cone (Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay): EUR 2 500 000
 - iv. Brazil: 3 000 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: Please refer to section 0 of the HIP.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/06/2021. Actions may start from 01/06/2021.
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action may be up to 12 months.
- e) Potential partners and criteria of selection:
 - ECHO partners already involved in the management of COVID-19-related interventions, with operational presence in the area of intervention and updated needs assessments.
 - Focus on vulnerable groups such as refugees and migrants, conflict-affected communities, neglected minority groups and indigenous populations.
 - Primary health care in support to the Covid 19 response would be prioritized through this assessment round. Rapid response to COVID-19 critical outbreaks in terms of purchase of medical equipment, PPE's or other supplies can be considered.
 - Prevention and surveillance related activities, including WASH in the framework of health structures is expected to be part of the response. Other complementary actions such as MPCT may be considered.
 - Partner's consortia ensuring a comprehensive/multisector response are encouraged.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form.²⁹ A modification or amendment of an existing proposal may also be considered.

²⁸ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

²⁹ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL

- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 14 working days after the publication of this version of the HIP.³⁰

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
 - Quality of the proposed response strategy, including intervention logic / logframe, 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?³¹

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.

³⁰ 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.

³¹ In accordance with the relevant section of the Single Form guidelines (section10)

No award will be made to NGO partner organisations which have not complied with their obligations concerning the submission of audited financial statements (i.e. which would not have submitted those in due time to the Commission without a proper justification) or which would appear not to offer sufficient guarantee as to their financial capacity to implement the proposed actions (in light of their liquidity and independency ratios as appearing from their latest available annual statutory accounts certified by an approved external auditor).

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.

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 based on 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. Furthermore, partners should ensure that the efficiency ratio is maintained throughout the action, unless otherwise approved by DG ECHO. 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.

STRENGTHENING EARLY RESPONSE CAPACITY

(1) Emergency/Rapid Response Mechanisms (ERM/RRM) as standalone 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 for rapid-on-set crisis. For slow-on-set, objective indicators with thresholds for engagement / disengagement should be defined in coordination with other stakeholders including the State Authorities.

(2) Flexibility embedded into the actions

Whenever relevant, partners should introduce flexibility to mobilize resources from on-going 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 unattended.

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 repositioning 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).

Specific requirements

Venezuela crisis

In-country operations

Target population: Actions will be oriented towards the relief of the populations most vulnerable and most impacted by the economic, political and social crisis in Venezuela. Through people-centred actions, partners should focus on children under five, unaccompanied and separated minors as well as minors with education access issues, pregnant and lactating women, elderly, people with disabilities, most vulnerable displaced people and returnees, as well as indigenous population in remote areas affected by epidemics and violence. Other clearly identified vulnerable groups can also be supported.

Geographical coverage: DG ECHO recommends working in large urban settlements such as Caracas, Maracaibo, Valencia, and Barquisimeto and border States such as Zulia, Táchira, Apure, Amazonas and Bolívar (Falcón and Sucre if protection needs).

Sector prioritisation: DG ECHO-funded interventions will prioritise:

Nutrition: supporting the monitoring and response to acute malnutrition in children under five, women and elders.

Health: priority should be given to supporting the emergency services of local structures, reducing the desertion of personnel. Given the context, it is important to integrate health and protection services, with the provision of sexual and reproductive care and mental health. The Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated the weakness of the health system, the vulnerability of health personnel and the lack of access to water services. When possible, interventions should combine support for WASH in health facilities as well as epidemic prevention and control measures depending on the sanitary context.

Water, sanitation and hygiene activities should focus the provision of potable water together with hygiene promotion and supplies for families and communities in need, in order to reduce health risks occasioned by critical sanitary conditions. This aspect becomes even more important in case of epidemic outbreaks during the implementation period.

Education in emergencies: schools have been identified as strategic community places to support children and their families through the provision of quality education, safe and protective environments, socio-emotional learning and psychosocial support, and improved access to other sectoral services (i.e. school feeding, WASH, etc.). Therefore, partners should develop an integrated response, also including specific programmes aimed at increasing school enrolment and retention, and reducing school desertion by children, young people, teachers and education personnel. To address *food insecurity*, activities aiming at facilitating access to food by families and vulnerable populations through direct provision, cash transfers or production support will be prioritised, with specific and rigorous targeting methodologies ensuring added value of DG ECHO funding through this modality and avoiding any political, religious or gender-based discrimination.

Protection: Given the complexity of the context and the existing risks exacerbated by the effects of COVID-19, protection of vulnerable people affected by the crisis remains a priority, especially children and elderly left behind in Venezuela by family members who have fled the country. In this regard, DG ECHO will prioritise actions focusing on internal displacement, direct provision of appropriate services to the most vulnerable and people at risk, restoring or maintaining family links, and addressing the increase in gender-based violence as well as human trafficking and exploitation in border areas. Reinforcement of shared Protection Information Management systems and capacity building of partners and stakeholders will be considered.

Food security activities, if planned, should be complementary to Nutrition, Health, WASH, Education in Emergency or Protection interventions, to provide comprehensive support to the most vulnerable and their families.

Coordination of the humanitarian response is of paramount importance to avoid duplication, avert any form of politisation of humanitarian aid and encourage an integral response by multiple actors. Actions should look at strengthening the existing cluster and coordination networks, both in Caracas and in the different regions. Given the limited availability of reliable data and consolidated joint needs assessments, strengthening information management systems is also a priority. This should be supported by the inclusion and strengthening of local organisations to better integrate all response efforts through principled actions, thus facilitating the standardisation of responses in all sectors.

Horizontal issues: Given the still limited number of local civil society organisations, attention should be paid not to overwhelm local partners. All operations should include a component to reinforce their operational capacities, notably in terms of skills and equipment necessary for the operations.

Each action should preferably focus on one or two sectors to be able to provide standardised response, with activities responding to immediate needs, and also facilitating early recovery when possible. Partners should in all cases work to restore local markets and local provision of assistance, taking all necessary do-no-harm and precautionary measures to avert the risk of fuelling illegal activities and groups. Disaster preparedness should be mainstreamed in all actions, based on a comprehensive risk analysis. The introduction of Crisis Modifiers is recommended.

In order to preserve access to population, the safety of aid workers, and/or the respect of the humanitarian principles, visibility and communication standards can be subject to special derogations in Venezuela. Partners will assess whether it is pertinent to communicate on their activities or share other information, always with the view of

protecting the beneficiaries and the intervention space for all humanitarian stakeholders in the country. In case of changes in context, derogations may be lifted, and, in such case, partners will be informed. DG ECHO could also agree, on a case by case basis, to increase communication and visibility inside the country.

To take account of the administrative and logistics constraints faced by humanitarian organisations in Venezuela, DG ECHO has prepared a guidance note concerning the application of flexibility measures to operations in Venezuela, including specific derogations applicable to all partners inside the country. In this framework, Single Forms must include a thorough risk analysis together with the mitigation measures envisaged to avoid the risk of resource diversion and to guarantee an impartial and timely aid delivery to the final beneficiaries.

Regional migration crisis response

The volume of needs generated by the Venezuelan migration crisis and the limited resources available make it necessary to focus the response on the immediate needs of the most vulnerable and most affected populations. Operations should be based on sound needs assessment with primary data collection, strong prioritisation and vulnerability criteria. The response to the Venezuelan migration crisis in the region does not only lie in the hands of humanitarian actors, and the priorities highlighted by host governments are part of a large structural response plan which is to be covered by long-term programmes, beyond humanitarian aid.

Target population: People in transit, more specifically *caminantes*³², with limited or no resources have been identified as extremely vulnerable and are the primary target of DG ECHO-funded assistance. People living in recent informal settlements in close vicinity of urban centres are also of concern. DG ECHO will favour actions targeting new arrivals.

Very vulnerable groups, among which indigenous people, unaccompanied and separated children, GBV and trafficking survivors, LGBTIQ+, elderly and people with disabilities require specific risk analysis and tailored response. Actions in support of vulnerable host communities could be considered, e.g. through the provision of community services or the rehabilitation/installation of first response infrastructure.

Geographical coverage: Border areas require specific attention due to the influx of people in transit and higher vulnerability. These areas, usually underdeveloped across the region, are the first ones to receive arrivals of refugees and migrants. In addition, the main routes followed by *caminantes* as well as peri-urban settings hosting the most vulnerable migrants and refugees can be considered.

Multi-country or regional interventions should demonstrate a sound strategy, showing the added value, coherence and connection between the actions across the different target countries. DG ECHO promotes a joint strategy for operations in Venezuela and neighbouring countries, mainly in cases of border areas and circular migration.

Sector prioritisation: Assistance must be integral and adapted to the specific needs identified. Nevertheless, special attention must be paid to the priority sectors defined by DG ECHO, i.e. health and protection.

³² *Caminantes* (“walkers”) refers to migrants and refugees in transit without means to afford any kind of transport to host countries.

Health is a top priority due to the scale of needs and the funding deficit in this sector. DG ECHO will support health operations in line with DG ECHO policy and operational recommendations, which includes primary, maternal and sexual-reproductive as well as mental health. In the current context, epidemics prevention and control are also a priority. COVID-19 interventions may be supported if they are integrated into a comprehensive health response. Depending on the availability and on existing local capacities, actions can be implemented directly or through referrals and support to local health institutions and facilities, but always with direct involvement of DG ECHO partners.

Protection: Legal assistance and access to documentation are considered a priority. Actions facilitating access to qualitative services, implementing active referrals and accompaniment, and directly providing case management and assistance to the most vulnerable people will be strongly supported, in complementarity with specific information dissemination on rights and services, which should be properly monitored and followed by implementing partners. Advocacy will be supported to ensure a minimum protection threshold, as well as efforts to enhance access to asylum and international protection procedures. The reinforcement of shared Protection Information Management systems and capacity building of partners and stakeholders will be considered.

Education in Emergencies is a priority for DG ECHO and should systematically be linked to protection programming. The implementation of flexible education models and formal education strategies in very close coordination with national authorities stands as crucial to ensure children's access and retention in schools. The response should include temporary learning spaces to host the increased number of students, provision of education supplies, accreditation and transition from non-formal to formal systems, teachers' capacity building to enhance socio-emotional learning, support to education personnel and authorities to reinforce psychosocial support to most vulnerable children, and social cohesion community actions to reduce discrimination and xenophobia.

An integrated approach with Child Protection remains imperative to strengthen the capacities of education personnel and authorities to appropriately address the risks of most vulnerable children; to promote quality and safe education environments; and to mitigate risk of dropouts and children's further exposure to exploitation, abuse and violence.

Water, sanitation and hygiene will not be considered systematically but tailored to the specific sanitary context at the moment of implementation, and to the specific needs of the target population.

Other sectors, notably *shelter, food assistance or multipurpose cash transfers*, should be covered under a specific and strategic targeting integrated with other sectors, such as protection. In this sense, it is crucial that shock-responsive social protection systems synergistically encompass both social assistance (mainly cash transfers) and social care implemented at regional, national and local level.

Livelihood support: DG ECHO funded actions will focus on the immediate and most pressing needs of the affected population. Actions related to livelihood should demonstrate rapid impact on urgent needs highlighted by beneficiaries. Stand-alone long-term livelihood interventions will not be supported as such, however DG ECHO promotes the link of humanitarian assistance with long-term programmes focused on socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants.

Horizontal issues: DG ECHO may support coordination at local, country and regional level. In this respect, partners are encouraged to coordinate their actions through the mechanisms created for that purpose.

In the context of evidence-based programming and advocacy, DG ECHO will pay specific attention to any initiative aiming at producing comprehensive data collection and management of information.

Actions should contribute to the implementation of the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) defined by the Regional Platform R4V. DG ECHO partners are requested to coordinate their actions with the relevant coordination mechanisms established at local, national and regional level.

Disaster Preparedness mainstreaming remains of paramount importance for actions funded by DG ECHO as a cross-cutting theme, based on a comprehensive risk, capacities and vulnerabilities analysis. The introduction of Crisis Modifiers should be considered. DG ECHO Disaster Preparedness actions in countries hosting Venezuelan refugees and migrants can integrate activities focused on strengthening local capacities to face and respond to the influx of displaced population.

Colombia

The interventions supported by DG ECHO in response to the consequences of internal armed conflicts in Colombia will primarily focus on covering gaps left by public assistance. They will aim at ensuring:

- h) Targeted humanitarian assistance and comprehensive protection for conflict-victims in situations of extreme vulnerability;
- i) Evidence-based programming together with information management and coordination.

Target population: Individuals and communities affected by recent forced displacement, confinement or other severe restrictions to mobility and access to basic services. Specific attention will be given to victims of multiple hazards and to minority groups, based on comprehensive risk analyses and thorough targeted need assessments. People living in parts of Colombia with high COVID-19 incidence and in conflict-affected areas, including migrants and refugees, should be targeted

Geographical coverage: Target areas should be those most affected by armed conflict with the worst humanitarian consequences on the population. DG ECHO is particularly keen to support actions that mitigate the effect of the armed conflicts in remote rural areas of Colombia as well as in urban settings. Areas distressed by multiple hazards such as municipalities affected by conflict and natural disasters, or border areas where several armed groups operate, are of concern.

Sector prioritisation: *Protection:* Considering that human safety, integrity and dignity are at high risk in conflict-affected areas, protection is the overarching sector of intervention. All actions supported by DG ECHO must aim at improving the protection of the beneficiaries, through either stand-alone or integrated actions.

Proposals must include a comprehensive and context-specific risk analysis, describing clearly the protection threats, vulnerabilities and existing capacities of the different target groups to cope with armed violence and multiple hazards. Actions will aim to reduce the

risks and provide a holistic response to victims of violence, abuse, exploitation and people at risk. Examples of specific protection activities that DG ECHO could support include case management, legal assistance and facilitation of civil documentation for forced displaced people, appropriate response to GBV survivors' needs, psychosocial support, mine risk education, promotion of IHL, protection monitoring, evidence-based advocacy, and the implementation of coordinated protection early alert and identification systems.

Education in Emergency is a DG ECHO priority and should be linked to protection programming. Whilst the provision of school supplies and the improvement of infrastructure should be enhanced, an integrated approach with Child Protection is imperative to strengthen teachers' capacities and promote students' socio-emotional learning and psychosocial support, as well as to ensure direct case management and appropriate responses to the needs of children and adolescents victims of violence, abuse, exploitation, discrimination and neglect. The challenge posed by mixed flows is significant, and exacerbates the pressure on the education system.

Health: The structural shortfall of health services, exacerbated throughout 2020 by COVID-19 in various parts of the country affected by the conflict, makes this sector a priority. Clear points of entry should be defined for health interventions. The decision to intervene in a crisis should be defined based on mortality and morbidity data, the current level of access to care, health and nutritional indicators, local capacity and willingness to act, and support provided by other actors. During the planning phase, partners must identify the gaps in health services justifying the need for a humanitarian intervention.

DG ECHO will not support stand-alone COVID-19 interventions, unless duly justified. As a rule, COVID-19 activities should be integrated into comprehensive health responses.

Direct involvement of DG ECHO partners in the provision of health care is mandatory. The support provided could be through existing official structures and/or in substitution when services are not available. In any case, the role of the partner cannot be limited to administrative and financial follow-up or technical supervision. This is essential both for the quality of care and project monitoring, and for reasons of proximity (better understanding of the context). Quality of care and medical services must at least meet international standards (Sphere or other). Quality of services in referral structures must also be assessed and ensured by partners prior the start of the project.

Health interventions will systematically include appropriate care for victims of sexual violence. It is essential that medical care is provided to GBV victims (men, women and children) as soon as possible. The provision of post-rape kits shall be ensured for the duration of the action. Awareness raising is crucial to ensure that information on the availability and confidentiality of services is widely disseminated. GBV is not exclusively a sector for women. Prevention measures, in particular, must involve as many men as possible. Medical and psychosocial support must be provided by qualified staff and in accordance with internationally recognised protocols.

For *nutrition*, intervention criteria are established based on the emergency thresholds for global acute malnutrition (in excess of 15 %, or of 10% where there are aggravating factors). It is also possible to start operations to tackle acute malnutrition if there is a high probability that these levels will be exceeded in the short term.

Food Assistance: Food distributions, through the most appropriate transfer modality, must respond to specific needs identified through primary data collection. Food Security

Assessment should be systematically conducted and/or Food Consumption Score should be used as a key indicator. Coordination with other actors must be ensured.

Livelihood resilience and capacity building: interventions funded by DG ECHO will focus on lifesaving activities in the context of the armed conflict. Therefore, actions related to livelihoods, resilience, capacity building or early recovery must demonstrate a rapid impact on identified urgent needs or be addressed through other funding mechanism.

WASH and shelter: Interventions in these sectors can be funded under rapid response mechanisms or with a clear link with protection, not as stand-alone activities.

Information management: There is a structural deficit of quality information related to the Colombian crisis. In order to facilitate evidence-based programming and advocacy, specific attention will be paid to any initiative aiming at producing comprehensive data collection and management of information illustrating the real dimension of the Colombian conflict crisis. DG ECHO is interested in streamlined information management for easy analysis, and will consider financing dedicated information management and coordination staff. Looking at capacity building of existing local information management networks in collaboration with national entities will be favoured.

Horizontal issues: Partners should attempt to formulate innovative and flexible responses to humanitarian emergencies caused by the Colombian armed conflicts. Colombia is characterised by recurrent waves of medium to small size displacements, often affecting the same communities or municipalities. In this context, Disaster Preparedness mainstreaming remains of paramount importance for actions funded by DG ECHO as cross-cutting theme, based on a comprehensive risk, capacities and vulnerabilities analysis. Partners are furthermore encouraged to consider two models for strengthened response capacity:

a) Emergency / Rapid Response Mechanisms (RRM) as stand-alone actions. Health and Protection as priority sectors should be privileged.

b) Crisis Modifiers (CM).

In a context of forced displacement and confinement, assistance to new internally displaced people should be delivered within the first two weeks after the event and for a specific period, to be defined according to sector and context specificities.

Nexus: Linkages with development and peace building initiatives in Colombia are strongly encouraged in order to promote lasting solutions and resilience for victims of the armed conflict and facilitate a proper transition in places where the improvement of the situation allows it. Initiatives that strengthen the nexus and analyse its impact on the beneficiaries will be considered with the utmost interest.

Individual displacement: Over the past years, it has been extremely difficult to quantify and target individual displacements. Before engaging in a response targeting individual displacements, partners should demonstrate the linkages with the ongoing recent conflict, measure the cost efficiency of the response and ensure proper targeting based on needs.

DG ECHO's interventions are needs-based. DG ECHO will pay specific attention to beneficiary targeting, which must be exclusively based on identified needs. The relevance of addressing individual protection of community leaders or human right defenders through humanitarian assistance must be explicitly demonstrated in the proposal.

Information dissemination must demonstrate direct impact on identified humanitarian needs. Information dissemination should represent a fraction of the intervention and be systematically linked to an assistance intervention.

Partners are expected to highlight proper *coordination mechanisms* in their proposals. DG ECHO encourages partners to continue providing complete information on their projects to OCHA, the Humanitarian Country Team and clusters as well as public institutions (in particular UARIV³³). At local level, partners will coordinate with Local Coordination Teams, local authorities, and humanitarian organisations implementing activities in the same geographical area.

All proposals must include *advocacy, visibility and communication* activities aimed at raising awareness about the humanitarian consequences of this forgotten crisis. All interventions in Colombia should be designed and implemented under the assumption that the State bears primary responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to the populations affected by the conflict. Direct assistance provided by humanitarian actors is only justified when local and national mechanisms fail to respond. Thus, relations with key stakeholders should include advocacy actions oriented towards engaging local and national authorities to fulfil their responsibilities.

Disaster Preparedness

DG ECHO aims at improving the synergies between humanitarian response and disaster preparedness through operations focused on enhancing local capacities to respond to multiple crises (conflict, displacement, natural hazards, epidemics). Partners are encouraged to propose innovative projects supporting such synergies.

Continued focus will be on multiple vulnerability of IDPs, migrants/refugees from Venezuela, communities affected by natural hazards, conflict and/or health emergencies (COVID-19). Special attention will be paid to actions that prioritise rural areas affected by multiple crises, with special attention to ethnic minorities, as well as neighbourhoods in urban areas affected by influxes of displaced populations. All actions should seek to improve the beneficiaries' protection and early recovery for better quality of the response. DG ECHO also encourages proposals focused on reinforcing the information management and assessment capacities of institutions and civil society in order to improve the pertinence of the humanitarian response.

Central America

Other Situations of Violence (OSV)

OSV encompasses all situations of violence that cause significant humanitarian needs, while they do not reach the threshold to be officially qualified as armed conflict and therefore fall outside the application of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). However, the non-applicability of IHL to the current context does not entail less risks, vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs for the civilian population. These risks are extremely wide, are further exacerbated by COVID-19, and require a comprehensive response approach to ensure the safety and dignity of the affected populations.

³³ Unidad para la Atención y Reparación Integral de las Víctimas del Conflicto

DG ECHO-funded actions will primarily focus on protection of the most vulnerable people and on responding to the humanitarian consequences of pervasive violence as well as civil unrest, enhancing access to basic services, reducing risks related to forced displacement, and mitigating the negative coping strategies to meet essential needs.

Target population: Most vulnerable people suffering from OSV and civil unrest, as described in the HIP, including resident populations, internally displaced people, people seeking international protection and returnees. Actions aiming at reinforcing existing assistance and protection systems at local, national and regional level are eligible as well.

Geographical coverage: OSV-affected countries in Central America and Mexico; Nicaragua (all territory) and Costa Rica (Greater Metropolitan Area of San José and Northern territories as Upala and Los Chiles). Priority will be given to areas with most acute unmet needs.

Sector prioritisation: In accordance with international and global standards and principles, protection and access to life-saving basic services, including to health services (also for GBV survivors), Education in Emergencies, livelihoods and emergency shelter are the main sectors identified. Targeted "pilot" actions in the main identified sectors that could illustrate and support the advocacy objectives can also be supported.

Multisectoral, integrated assistance: Innovative and effective actions to meet the most urgent relief and protection needs of the victims are critically needed. Actions must be based on a consolidated and context-specific risk analysis. Needs-based humanitarian emergency assistance, addressing urgent relief and protection needs of vulnerable migrants, refugees, IDPs, returnees, as well as host communities, as well as integrated approaches to respond to the identified needs will be prioritised. Among others, interventions should: reinforce the promotion of humanitarian access and the protection of civilian populations in confined areas, supporting national and regional frameworks to ensure international protection to IDPs, asylum seekers and refugees; ensure continuous and effective protection monitoring; address case management of the most vulnerable victims and survivors; ensure psychosocial support, provision of emergency shelter and alternative care, meaningful access to basic services (including health, education, legal assistance); pursue reintegration of those formerly associated to gangs. In particular, addressing the needs of *caminantes* and forcibly displaced people, support to specific transit shelters and other facilities will be considered. Existing or expected coordination frameworks and protocols, including child safeguarding policies when applicable, to ensure that the highest requirements are met, must be presented and defined.

Violence in Central America is having a huge impact on children and youth, threatening their safety and dignity, and hampering their access to education. In the communities most affected by violence, the risks for students are severe, such as infiltration of gangs members in the schools, forced recruitment and association to armed groups, sexual gender-based violence and early pregnancies, extortion, exploitation, abuse and threats. The integrated approach with protection is crucial to strengthen psychosocial support, to ensure direct case management and appropriate responses to the needs of children and adolescents, as well as to enhance the community approach.

Horizontal issues: In order to enable evidence-informed actions and advocacy, it is imperative to enhance the quality of data and information collected, analysed, shared and managed on OSV and its consequences on civilian populations. The reinforcement of *coordination and information management* systems, strengthening the protection,

emergency preparedness and response capacities of humanitarian actors in order to enhance the response to influxes of migrants and refugees will be a priority.

Disaster preparedness mainstreaming remains of paramount importance for actions funded by DG ECHO as cross-cutting theme, based on a comprehensive risk, capacities and vulnerabilities analysis. The introduction of Crisis Modifiers should be considered

Humanitarian evidence-based advocacy: Awareness building actions should aim at generating a proper and wider understanding of the challenges, opportunities and needs inherent to OSV and any action addressing the phenomenon. The ultimate goal is to trigger advocacy action by those with relevant mandate, as well as an added value to act on the long-term solutions.

Food crisis

In view of the severity and recurrence of recent adverse impacts, compounded by man-made crises where applicable, interventions related to food assistance will be considered in the so-called “Dry Corridor” of Central America.

Target population: in priority, food assistance interventions will aim to target households categorized in IPC phase 4 and households in IPC phase 3 with additional constraints (in particular: households with poor food-consumption and asset base, high number of dependents, absence of remittances, presence of individuals at risk of and/or affected by acute malnutrition). The definition of criteria adapted to local characteristics of households is encouraged.

Geographical coverage: Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. Areas with highest humanitarian needs as per IPC classification will be targeted in priority. The ranking of communities according to their vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition must be explicit. Geographical targeting should be based on remoteness, lack of basic infrastructure and on the level of relief assistance provided during the past lean seasons.

Sector prioritisation: First priority is to improve households’ *food consumption*, unconditional and time-bound to the lean season or in anticipation of it. The choice of the most adapted distribution modality and mechanism will be made based on the analysis of all options available locally. Partners must calibrate the assistance based on the actual households’ needs and adjust it to the number of family members. Assessment and monitoring of local food markets is essential for cash-based interventions. Post-distribution monitoring will enable real-time adjustment of interventions.

Short to medium term recovery of *livelihood* capacities can be considered in contexts where the prospects of long-term support from resilience building programs to the same target households are uncertain and must be based on lessons learnt from similar experiences.

Horizontal issues: Most of the Dry Corridor presents low acute and high chronic malnutrition prevalence rates, where humanitarian food assistance interventions should be nutrition sensitive. Activities that protect the nutritional status of individuals at risk are relevant such as direct handouts, adequate trainings and sensitisation, and increased surveillance, monitoring and treatment of acute cases.

The generalized lack of reliable and updated information on the food and nutrition security situation of households gives sufficient evidence for DG ECHO partners to continue strengthening the early warning and response systems in their areas of intervention.

Synergies with targeted DP actions and other on-going humanitarian actions are sought. Efforts must be made to increase the quality of local and national situation analysis and dissemination of information should be made with the objective to increase the visibility and the funding of the response to the crisis.

DG ECHO encourages articulation and coordination among humanitarian operations in Central America and expects partners to contribute to joint efforts for needs assessment (HNO), programming (HRP) and monitoring (4W).

Disaster Preparedness

DG ECHO 2020 Disaster Preparedness strategy will aim at supporting national DP systems in strengthening contingency planning and surge models in key national services (health, food security/nutrition), based on lessons learned from recent disasters (e.g. COVID-19, Tropical Storm Amanda, flooding in Nicaragua and Honduras, Volcan de Fuego eruption, forest fires, Hurricane Eta), predictable and ongoing crises (drought/ENSO), and the exacerbating violence in the region.

Target population: Priority will be given to those communities with the highest risk indicators and the lowest coping capacities, most exposed to natural hazards, pervasive violence, post-crisis displacements and food insecurity, and to regional and national institutions responsible for DRM in need of technical support.

Geographical coverage: Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Panama and Mexico can be integrated in regional proposals.

Sector priorities: Support is envisaged in line with the following regional strategies:

1. Risk-based and anticipatory actions. Development of risk and forecast-based tools for early action to further improve capacity to act in anticipation of a crisis and for better preparedness to response. The strategy will enhance local first responders' capacities to deliver basic services. Focus will be put on improving early action and locally/nationally owned rapid response mechanisms, integrating shock responsiveness and protection approach as well as Crisis Modifiers. All the countries in the region should be targeted, but special attention will be given to the Northern of Central America and Nicaragua. The analysis of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in the region will be necessary in order to identify additional risks that vulnerable groups may face.

2. Preparedness in violent and fragile settings and man-made crises. Developing emergency and contingency plans to enhance communities' resilience to OSV and forced displacement, through the strengthening protection networks, early warning systems, information management and mitigation mechanisms in order to increase preparedness in areas affected by pervasive organized violence and mass population movements. Risks analysis remains fundamental to ensure evidence-based actions and to effectively prepare the most vulnerable populations against violence, avoiding exacerbation of pre-existing and new situations of violence, abuse and exploitation. Community-based protection actions, in relation with relevant institutions will be prioritised in order to ensure local awareness and protection mechanisms adapted to the specific context of intervention to ensure feasible actions in vulnerable and fragile contexts.

3. Climate and environment resilience. Most exposed areas to natural hazards (including forest fires) should be targeted. As the region is being affected by epidemic outbreaks (COVID-19, dengue and others), epidemic preparedness will be included from epidemiological surveillance to vector control activities. Preparedness for climate shock-

responsive/mobile cash transfer systems and stocks/supplies pre-positioning will also be envisaged.

4. Urban preparedness: Focus will be put on enhancing capacities for urban preparedness with an emphasis on cities and large urban agglomerations mostly exposed to natural hazards and man-made disasters, including movement of people (IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers).

Horizontal issues: Protection mainstreaming principles and risks analysis shall be embedded in each DP action. All DP actions must be aligned with the respective national and regional DRR frameworks (Central America Integral Risk Management Policy - PCGIR). This includes policies, strategies, legislation and planning at various levels. A key interface in the development of DP/DRR strategies is represented by national disaster management institutions, which are responsible for the articulation of a national risk reduction policy. However, this does not preclude a multi-ministerial planning/programming dialogue.

Where relevant and feasible, with the aim of strengthening on-going coordination mechanisms and increasing capacities of national DRR systems, cooperation with European UCPM mechanism will be incorporated, including the possibility of establishing pre-agreements at regional or national level CPM – CEPREDENAC.

Synergies between targeted DP actions, DG ECHO-funded food assistance response and DEVCO-funded programmes should be sought to increase the availability of reliable primary data on the food security situation, leading to more robust IPC analysis that are owned by local technical services. Subsequent dissemination and advocacy at national and international levels will be instrumental to secure increased funding and scale up the food assistance response in the Dry Corridor of Central America in 2021 and beyond.

Applicants should take into full account the impact of organised violence and other man-made disasters, as a key element of increased vulnerability of the affected population, extremely weakened access to basic services, and diminished capacities to fully enjoy human rights. Proposed operations should thus include this variable in the risk analysis of vulnerabilities and capacities, allowing a more comprehensive approach to strengthening communities' resilience and mitigate the impact of identified threats.

To ensure protection mainstreaming in the face of different crises and for a timely and effective response, protection principles will be integrated in all actions, promoting meaningful access, active participation of all affected populations, including the most vulnerable and marginalised, and ensuring equity, safety and dignity.

Telecommunication and stockpiling will be enhanced in order to ensure an effective first response. Telecommunication has become a very important issue in the actual context of the COVID-19 pandemic that has highlighted the need of strengthening such systems in order to ensure remote delivery of services and monitoring when no mobilisation at field level is possible or permitted. Proposed operations should, when appropriate, take into account the integration of preparedness towards the risk of epidemics in their planning as part of a comprehensive risk approach. In this sense, where appropriate, local and municipal multi-hazard approach plans should include epidemiologic outbreak protocols and the related coordination with institutions leading the national response in this type of threats.

Systematic integration of technical, specific and scientific institutions (national and regional) and of the academic sector should be sought, as well as collaborations with the private sector. Proposed actions should also seek synergies with institutions in charge of municipal development, in order to contribute to institutionalisation processes.

Haiti

DG ECHO will support actions responding to the unaddressed humanitarian needs caused by civil unrest and violence, forced displacements, drastic reduction in access to basic services, drought and food insecurity.

Target population: Vulnerable communities exposed to violence, natural hazards and drought; displaced people (including forcibly repatriated); people with specific vulnerabilities. For food assistance, most acute food insecure population (IPC4/3). For DP, national and local institutions responsible for Disaster Risk Management and response.

Geographical coverage: Priority areas presenting high levels of exposure, vulnerability and recurrent humanitarian needs; in particular urban and peri-urban areas and those identified by the latest IPC mapping, as well as situations anticipated to deteriorate towards critical food insecurity.

Sectoral priorities:

Food assistance and nutrition

Considering the severe degradation of the food security situation following the effects of the drought, the deepening socio economic crisis, and the negative impact of COVID-19, underscored by the recent IPC, DG ECHO will support emergency food and cash assistance as well as nutritional support for the most affected areas both in rural and urban areas. Proposed activities should demonstrate rapid impact and preferably contribute to beneficiaries' increased resilience. Mid-term activities can be considered when linking with long-term development interventions and clear synergies are demonstrated.

Interventions should ensure as much as possible strong linkages with longer-term development initiatives. Actions demonstrating clear nexus opportunities with EU food and nutrition security programme targeting IPC4 classification will be prioritised.

To that end, actions must pursue as a priority the inclusion of beneficiaries receiving emergency assistance through DG ECHO-funded projects into longer-term interventions, in line with the joint ECHO-DEVCO LRRD strategy. At operational level, this should mean that most acutely food insecure households receive food and nutrition assistance through DG ECHO-funded interventions, while the same households will receive longer-term livelihood reinforcement and nutrition support through DG DEVCO.

Humanitarian actions will focus on immediate response to acute food and nutrition needs of vulnerable households in food emergency (IPC phase 4). The assistance provided must ensure relevant coverage of existing food gaps, considering Household Economy Approach (HEA) outcome analysis results when available, and basic food basket nominal prices monitored at local markets level. Food assistance must be provided adopting local market-based emergency response modalities. Initiatives reinforcing the consumption of locally made food will be privileged.

Food assistance interventions should be nutrition sensitive; actions supporting national institutions on ensuring quality case management capacities of Severe Acute Malnutrition

(with and without medical complications) as well as Moderate Acute Malnutrition cases adopting the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition model (CMAM), accompanied by malnutrition prevention activities promoting the adoption of optimal IYCF practices, are encouraged.

Initiatives aiming at reinforcing the analysis of the acute food and nutrition insecurity situations will be considered favourably if their technical robustness is demonstrated and if they feed into the prevailing analytical framework (IPC).

Targeting most acutely food insecure households is essential. To that purpose, it is strongly encouraged to adopt the “frequency list” methodology, considering very poor households’ profiles according to HEA analysis for the livelihood zone corresponding to target areas. In addition, in the beneficiary selection processes partners are recommended to use the households registry elaborated by the Haitian Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MAST) and partners.

Linked to the previous point, partners must systematically carry out a comparison between beneficiary lists elaborated through the “frequency lists” methodology and those targeting structural poverty elaborated after the application of the proxy index to measure structural poverty called Haiti Deprivation and Vulnerability Index (HDVI), used by MAST and partners in the framework of ongoing social protection programmes.

Protection

To address the needs generated by the recent increase in political and gang-related violence as well as forced displacement and survival migration, DG ECHO will follow a twin-track approach targeting the most vulnerable populations according to the context-specific risk analysis, comprising stand-alone targeted protection activities and integrated assistance to mitigate identified risks.

Due to the inability of national structures to respond to the needs of the victims and survivors of violence, abuse and exploitation, both preventive and responsive actions, such as community outreach, information dissemination on rights and services, case management and direct services provision to most vulnerable people, will be prioritised. The survivor-centred approach is key to respond appropriately. A holistic and integrated approach to care including medical care, mental health and psychological support, legal assistance and access to livelihoods and socio-economic reintegration will be considered.

Interventions addressing the needs of migrants, returnees and deportees and providing first assistance to the most vulnerable repatriated are a priority. The activities should be designed in line with Government’s response strategy and build upon partners’ concrete capacities. The actions should also focus on reinforcing the capacities of the relevant stakeholders that have a role to play in an emergency response.

The immediate relief and assistance provided on arrival to most vulnerable returnees should ensure access to qualitative basic services, case management, referral and accompaniment, adequate information on rights, risks and entitlements. Special attention will be paid to unaccompanied and separated children, people with disabilities, elderly and other groups with specific needs.

Disaster Preparedness

DG ECHO 2021 DP strategy will aim at strengthening emergency preparedness and response to interlinked multi-hazard risks including drought and violence, forced

displacements and outbreaks. The DP strategy envisages to develop further the e-prep approach with strategic partners in order to improve capacities for rapid response and risk-based anticipatory actions, improve preparedness actions in fragile and violent settings integrating protection responsiveness including the strengthening of evidence-based analysis, with emphasis on most vulnerable urban areas. Resilience and Climate change adaptation will be mainstreamed along the DP strategy.

DG ECHO recommends partners to develop synergies and pooling resources for a more comprehensive approach. In line with the Nexus commitment and the EU Resilience Framework for Haiti, DG ECHO encourages coordination, joint analysis and planning with government services and development donors. The strategy focuses on the following priorities:

- National Systems and partners improve capacities to respond at national, departmental and local level, developing locally and nationally owned rapid response mechanisms based on lessons learned from recent disasters. Stock-piling capacities will be enhanced, E-prep further development will be evaluated, and social protection schemes will be analysed for improved preparedness.
- Local communities and national capacities are strengthened in order to respond to protection needs caused by socio-political unrest and rampant violence. DP systems develop emergency and contingency plans to integrate violence risks and protection needs. Existing mechanisms for violence prevention, mitigation and response are reinforced. The meaningful participation of all vulnerable groups, such as women, children, people with disabilities, marginalised populations and elderly is ensured.
- Local and national capacities are strengthened to ensure the inclusion of a climate and resilience sensitive disaster preparedness approach. Climate shock-responsive capacities developed for preparedness and response (mobile cash transfer systems). Vulnerability and capacity assessment integrating climate risk/impact projections are updated. Epidemic outbreak preparedness capacities are strengthened.
- Special focus is placed on improving urban preparedness and early response with emphasis in Port au Prince for WASH, Shelter and Protection.
- Various models to strengthen emergency response capacity including the use of Crisis Modifiers (CM) and the development of Emergency Response Mechanisms (ERM), with robust protection components and possibly legal support, food, non-food items and shelter assistance.

Horizontal issues: Partners must demonstrate a clearly defined overall intervention strategy, supporting activities that facilitate or strengthen cooperation mechanisms, including phase-out, scaling up and handover processes. A comprehensive risk analysis should support the identification of protection threats, including the impact of violence and other manmade disasters, increased exposure and specific vulnerabilities as well as the capacities of specific communities.

Lessons learned: All ECHO-supported interventions must generate evidences, which must be shared and disseminated, on targeting processes' results and conclusions.

Awareness raising and advocacy activities to attract international attention on the humanitarian situation in Haiti are encouraged.

Localisation: Partnerships with local and national associations and engagement with local authorities are strongly encouraged.

Nexus: Linkages with development initiatives are encouraged in order to promote long-lasting solutions and resilience for the most vulnerable exposed and affected populations and facilitate a proper transition where possible.

Coordination: Efforts to increase the quality of the coordination of the response, notably in the food and nutrition sectors, are deemed necessary.

All actions must be compliant with national regulations and protocols regarding COVID-19, from data gathering to distribution.

Caribbean

Disaster Preparedness

DG ECHO 2021 Disaster Preparedness and Resilience strategy aims at covering gaps in terms of preparedness and response capacities to respond to disasters and create better resilient communities as well as local, national and regional institutions. In close relation with EU services and coordination with other donors, this strategy should support the Caribbean Comprehensive Disaster Management strategy and correlated national institutions. Proposed Actions should pay a particular attention to protection and inclusiveness as well as the current socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Target population: Vulnerable communities most exposed to multiple hazards with emphasis on displaced people and those not covered by social protection mechanisms. Regional and national institutions responsible for Disaster Risk- Management, preparedness and response.

Geographical coverage: Priority areas that present high levels of exposure, vulnerability and recurrent humanitarian needs, with insufficient capacities to reduce risk or respond effectively.

ECHO DP strategy for the Caribbean is aligned with the ECHO 2021-2024 Disaster Preparedness policy priorities, and it integrates the cross-cutting issues mentioned above:

1. Risk-based and anticipatory actions

Regional and national disaster management capacities including inter-island and cross-border coordination and response need to be enhanced. There is a persisting need for capacity strengthening on coordination and information management, humanitarian logistics, telecommunications, forecast-based financing, social protection and cash assistance.

The COVID-19 crisis is increasing poverty and exacerbating vulnerabilities in all countries of the Caribbean. Moreover, recent disasters revealed gaps in regional and national preparedness, rapid response capacity, protection, and the lack of responsiveness of social protection systems.

Indicative activities may include: Improve forecast-based and anticipatory actions, supply chain management, shock-responsive social protection mechanisms, enhance the capacities of National Disaster Management systems and the CDEMA's Regional Response Mechanism, integrate Crisis Modifiers and Rapid Response Mechanisms, improve coordination and information management to strengthen data collection and

analysis, develop new solutions for disaster preparedness and response (Internet of Things, AI, Big Data, EWS, etc.).

2. Preparedness in conflict and fragile settings

Migration from fragile states can be estimated at 1.1 million people in the Caribbean sub-region. With COVID-19, xenophobia and social tensions are on the rise and the vulnerabilities of displaced people have increased. Actions should promote protection activities to better integrate displacement patterns and people victims of conflict in national preparedness and response protocols.

Indicative activities may include: integration of displacement trends in preparedness planning and response; improvement of capacities to develop protocols and mechanisms to integrate post-crisis displacements (migrants/IDPs/refugees) and reinforcement of advocacy capacities in benefit of refugees and displaced people.

3. Climate and environmental resilience

With large parts of the Caribbean population living in high-risk areas and heavily reliant on weather-sensitive sectors such as tourism or agriculture, the risks of climate related disasters including livelihoods losses are expected to worsen. Moreover, national and regional capacities for outbreak preparedness have been severely tested. Therefore, preparedness actions should contribute to climate and environmental resilience while better preparing to disasters and crisis.

Indicative activities may include: outbreak preparedness, environmental-based actions for disaster preparedness, including mangrove reforestation, afforestation, improve capacities to prevent climate-induced displacements, consolidate drought management, use green technology in disaster response, and the conservation of biodiversity in preparedness, emergency and recovery.

4. Urban preparedness

Most people in the Caribbean live in cities and coastal areas exposed to multiple hazards, while the most vulnerable inhabit informal urban areas in precarious housing, unsafe and unhealthy conditions. Consequently, actions can contribute to improve urban dwellers capacities to prepare and respond to disasters, while contributing to level up basic living, health, safety and sanitary conditions in slums and poor urban areas. Initiatives shall address existing gaps such as the lack of comprehensive frameworks to address disasters in urban areas, insufficient dissemination of best practices, housing vulnerabilities and the risks of building collapse.

Indicative activities may include: innovative housing adaptation and resilient housing link to long-term home improvement and slum-upgrading strategies fostering nexus and synergies with development programming, enhancing building assessment and retrofitting, community-based adaptation, mobilize EUCPM Advisory missions, improve search and rescue capacities, enhance risk-informed urban planning and decision making, contribute to the Caribbean Safe School Initiative, Safe Hospitals capacitated for mass casualty management, enhancing response capacity in urban contexts.

Cross-cutting issues

Protection: Operations shall incorporate protection principles and promote meaningful access, safety and dignity in disaster preparedness and response. Risk analysis needs assessments and a rights-based approach shall help to identify threats and vulnerabilities

and to establish appropriate responses (including child protection, Gender-Based Violence, Housing, Land and Property). Operations shall contribute to stopping, preventing, and alleviating the worst effects of human rights violations and patterns of abuse such as forced repatriation of victims of disasters/ crisis. People with disabilities (PWD) and the elderly should be systematically included in preparedness processes.

Logistics: Actions can support the development of logistics capacity (e.g. humanitarian logistics, stockpiling and supply chain management). Proposed actions can contribute to improve rapid response mechanisms, strategic prepositioning of emergency stocks, multi-purpose cash-based programming, Civ-Mil coordination in relation with civil protection, UCPM and EU Member States military assets in the OCTs.

Enhanced partnerships: DG ECHO has progressively developed solid partnerships with strategic partners including United Nations, International NGOs, Red Cross Movement, CDEMA and EU Delegations in the Caribbean. New operations shall build and enhance existing partnerships to scale up investments in disaster preparedness and foster nexus with development actors. Actions shall also improve partnerships with climate/scientific actors/academia and private sector to strengthen and expand the base of solutions.

South America

Disaster Preparedness

In South America, three overarching priorities will be pursued:

1. *Support to national disaster management systems in key sectors, both in a country and in a regional perspective.* This includes consolidating the ongoing operations strengthening civil-military coordination, improving preparedness/responsiveness of social protection mechanisms to new emergencies and setting-up new solutions for disaster preparedness and response (in IT, open hardware, etc.).
2. *Multiple vulnerability,* in particular Venezuelan migration crisis and Colombian conflict. At country level, the capacity of institutions and communities to respond efficiently to the human mobility situation and the articulation between the different sectors can be supported. Actions will aim at enhancing preparedness to better respond to the challenges posed by vulnerability to multi-hazards combined with migration-related challenges due to Venezuela crisis, supporting migrants' rights (particularly in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil). Forcibly displaced Venezuelan are to be considered within any disaster risk management initiatives as they constitute a percentage of the population living in large cities, which bear significant impact on urban development, on the use of resources (water, energy...), etc.
3. *Support to disaster preparedness of indigenous and vulnerable communities in a community-based perspective.* These initiatives will primarily target most vulnerable indigenous communities and city slums facing multiple hazards including violence, migration/forced displacement, epidemics and environmental/ ecological disasters.
4. *Urban preparedness* focused mainly on city slums hosting migrants and refugees and exposed to disasters, epidemics and violence.

Target population: National and local institutions as well as civil society organisations dealing with disaster risk management as well as with protection and assistance to victims of violence and forced displacement or migration; communities with the highest risk

indicators and the lowest coping capacities, most exposed to natural hazards, pervasive violence and discrimination, post-crisis displacements as well as national institutions responsible for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in need of technical support.

Geographical coverage: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, Venezuela and indigenous areas of Argentina and Amazonian basin.

Horizontal issues: Generally speaking, it will be important to take advantage of the momentum generated by recent or ongoing crises in order to improve rapid response and early action capacities, taking advantage of the gaps identified and lesson learnt. Operations should aim at tackling specific gaps identified, indicating clearly which bottleneck is being targeted to ensure better preparedness.

Integration of protection in DP through the inclusiveness of specifically vulnerable groups in disaster preparedness mechanisms, social protection schemes as well as promoting protection mainstreaming in DP tools and protocols.

In order to ensure the necessary flexibility, actions will include Crisis Modifiers, as small events are often overlooked, and large events require time to organise the international support.

Actions can support the development of logistics capacity (e.g. humanitarian logistics, stockpiling and supply chain management). Proposed actions can contribute to improve rapid response mechanisms, strategic prepositioning of emergency stocks, multi-purpose cash-based programming,

Enhanced partnerships: New operations shall build and enhance existing partnerships to scale-up investments on disaster preparedness and foster nexus with development actors. Additionally, actions shall improve partnerships with climate/scientific actors/academia and private sector to strengthen and expand the base of solutions. The multi-hazard approach implies a diversification of partnerships, which now will go beyond DRM and will include institutions and civil society organizations dealing with the humanitarian consequences of migration, displacement, violence and environmental crises.