

## TECHNICAL ANNEX

### NORTH AFRICA

#### 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<sup>2</sup>: EUR 20 000 000 of which an indicative amount of EUR 2 400 000 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):

Countries	Action (a) Man-made crises and natural disasters	Action (b) Initial emergency response/small- scale/epidemics	Action (c) Disaster Preparedness	Actions (d) to (f) Transport/ Complementary activities	TOTAL
ALGERIA	9 000 000				9 000 000
LIBYA	6 000 000				6 000 000
EGYPT	5 000 000				5 000 000

## 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

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<sup>2</sup> 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

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 – ALGERIA and LIBYA**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 15 000 000.
- b) The humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round correspond to both the Algeria and Libya sections of the 2021 HIP chapter 5 “Envisaged DG ECHO response and expected results of humanitarian aid interventions” and chapter 3.2.2 of this Technical Annex.

- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2021<sup>3</sup>.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Education in Emergencies, Disaster Preparedness, and WASH as well as for pilot Programmatic Partnerships.  
In view of the transition towards the 2021-2027 Multiannual 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. Proposals will need to be submitted as new proposals on the basis of the new Single Form. 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 partners<sup>4</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form<sup>5</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 01/02/2021<sup>6</sup>

### **Allocation round 2 – EGYPT**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 5 000 000.
- b) The humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round correspond to the Egypt section of the HIP 2021 chapter 5 “Envisaged DG ECHO response and expected results of humanitarian aid interventions” and chapter 3.2.2 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2021<sup>3</sup>.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for pilot Programmatic Partnerships.  
In view of the transition towards the 2021-2027 Multiannual 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. Proposals will need to be submitted as new proposals on the basis of the new Single Form. 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 partners<sup>4</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>5</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 15/02/2021<sup>6</sup>.

### **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 contributes to resilience and sustainability.
- 5) Cost-effectiveness/efficiency/transparency
  - Does the proposed intervention display an appropriate relationship between the resources to be employed, the activities to be undertaken, and the objectives to be achieved?
  - Is the breakdown of costs sufficiently documented/explained?<sup>7</sup>

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.

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<sup>7</sup> In accordance with the relevant section of the Single Form guidelines (section 10)

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.*

## **LIBYA**

**A) Actions falling under the following sectors and based on sound needs assessments will be prioritised:**

### **Protection**

DG ECHO seeks to improve the quality of humanitarian assistance through protection programming that prevents, reduces, mitigates and responds to protection threats.

Actions to strengthen protection of conflict-affected civilians exposed to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect will be supported through protection integrated programming aimed at preventing and responding to violence and addressing protection needs of the different gender and age groups as well as barriers to access protection and other basic services.

Services may include (1) protection monitoring and strengthening the protection information management system, (2) case management and/or referral to appropriate services, including medical care for victims of violence (including GBV victims), Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), legal assistance (e.g. to address gaps in documentation) and IPA (individual protection assistance) for vulnerable persons, and their referral to existing social care structures and /or cash support as relevant.

DG ECHO will support mapping of existing shock-responsive social care and protection networks and mechanisms in conflict-affected areas including mobile and static response capacities.

In relation to humanitarian demining operations, DG ECHO might support the three components of mine risk education, survey and mapping of contamination and mine clearance. Humanitarian demining operations should take place in areas of return, in close coordination with other funding instruments and if urgent unmet needs are identified.

Finally, partners may propose initiatives to enhance evidence-based advocacy and efforts to promote respect for IHL/IHRL. DG ECHO may support intervention focussing on the dissemination of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), International Human Rights Law (IHRL), and humanitarian standards to community leaders and members, security forces and armed actors, and other relevant institutions and authorities. Advocacy to increase compliance with IHL/IHRL to contribute to the restoration of a protective environment may be supported.

### **Health**

Support will focus primarily on conflict-affected zones where basic health services are unavailable or inaccessible to vulnerable populations and not covered by other funding instruments. The objective is to save lives and prevent permanent disability and diseases associated with humanitarian crises. Health services funded by the EU humanitarian assistance should be free of charge for beneficiaries and made available to all, including refugees, internally displaced persons, vulnerable migrants and third-country nationals, without discrimination.

*The following activities are prioritised:* emergency health care, including trauma care and war surgery, rehabilitation services including prosthesis and orthopedics; restoration/provision of primary healthcare services in conflict affected areas (through mobile teams if needed) and including maternal and child health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), including gender-based violence post exposure prophylaxis, non-communicable disease management and referral to secondary/tertiary care as necessary. They may include the provision of essential medicines, medical equipment and temporary deployment of medical staff in support of humanitarian health activities where most needed. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on provision of and access to health services should be closely monitored to address unmet needs. It is expected that health partners support epidemiological surveillance and integrate appropriate IPC measures. Attention to the specific needs of highly vulnerable groups (children, women, disabled, elderly, discriminated minorities) is required.

### **Education in Emergencies (EiE)**

ECHO may consider actions that provide safe and quality education for conflict-affected children, including displaced, migrant and refugee children with limited or no access to education. EiE support may focus on formal or non-formal education, the latter is to actively support children to enter and be retained in the formal system (e.g. through catch-up or remedial programs); or, where this is not possible, ensure alternative pathways with comparable learning outcomes. Support to formal education may include teachers' trainings incl. on child protection and provision of learning material. Analysis of the specific crisis-related barriers to education is required, with an appropriately tailored response. In addition to learning outcomes, EiE interventions are expected to be integrated with protection programming and include analysis of and response to child protection needs (e.g. Psychosocial Support (PSS), case management and referrals, etc.). Mine Risk Education (MRE) should be included in areas affected by active conflict, displacement or return. Access barriers, including availability of safe drinking water and adequate gender sensitive WASH facilities in schools need to be addressed. Rehabilitation/repair of schools will only be considered if necessary to ensure safe and conducive learning spaces. All actions have to consider COVID-19 response modalities allowing for continuity of

education in a safe and efficient manner in coordination with relevant mechanisms and stakeholders, including the Education Sector Working Group (ESWG) and Education Cannot Wait (ECW).

Partners are required to design an exit strategy, outlining the path of handing over activities to local actors and/or stabilization/development donors, to the extent possible.

### **Basic Needs Approach**

DG ECHO may consider addressing basic needs through multi-purpose cash transfers (MPCT) integrated with protection programming and based on a robust protection risk analysis with protection as the entry point and the objective to reduce specific protection risks for vulnerable conflict affected people excluded from other forms of assistance. In-kind support with NFIs may be considered where MPCT is not possible.

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.

### **Coordination and Support Services**

Strengthening of existing coordination mechanism through support for dedicated coordination staff will be envisaged with the objective to uphold humanitarian principles and the centrality of protection in the response, to enhance evidence based needs analysis, improve operational coordination with Libyans stakeholders, reinforce capacity of local responders, increase access and accountability to affected population and to address gaps in assistance provision, including underserved or otherwise neglected communities. Support to humanitarian air services may be considered to strengthen logistics capacity including to deliver urgently needed supplies, e.g. for the COVID-19 response as well as management and oversight by enhancing presence of humanitarian staff.

### **B) Actions falling under the following sectors could be considered in case of proven urgent unmet needs:**

#### **Food Assistance**

Emergency food assistance could be considered in conflict affected areas based on solid needs assessments and proven humanitarian need for food assistance. It should target the most vulnerable people including recently forcibly displaced persons excluded from



national and local responses. Partners should use vulnerability criteria such as, for instance, the Food Consumption Score (FCS) and the Coping Strategy Index (CSI).

### **Shelter and non-food items (NFIs)**

NFIs and shelter emergency assistance to the most vulnerable forcibly displaced persons and returnees could be considered, if targeted according to documented vulnerability criteria. Partners are required to use SMART technical outcome indicators specific to shelter and settlement to ensure outputs can be traced and quality assured.

*For both Food assistance, shelter and NFIs interventions, the Multi-Purpose Cash Transfer modality should be the preferred option, whenever feasible.*

### **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

Support could be considered in conflict - affected zones or in areas with high concentration of IDPs/returnees based on proven urgent needs. Exceptionally, WASH activities may complement health interventions to ensure the delivery of adequate health services in the facilities supported.

### **C) Other Operational Considerations**

Partners are expected to mainstream protection and use protection-sensitive targeting across all sectors to ensure 1) do no harm (including considerations of beneficiary safety and security), 2) unhampered and meaningful access (to beneficiaries and by beneficiaries to assistance), 3) accountability, including through feedback & complaints and PSEA (Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) mechanisms and 4) participation and empowerment. Protection mainstreaming aspects should be systematically monitored during the intervention using an impact indicator at specific objective level, e.g.:

*% of beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex, age and diversity) reporting that humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable and participatory manner.*

Due to the (semi-)remote management context, increasing the support to local partners on protection mainstreaming and protection principles including PSEA is paramount to ensure minimum standards.

A stand-alone Rapid Response Mechanism will not be considered for funding under HIP 2021.

## **ALGERIA**

*All actions shall be adapted to the COVID-19 as to ensure continuity of services while preventing risks of transmission in the Sahrawi refugee camps.*

### **Food Assistance**

The focus should be on the provision of nutrition sensitive food assistance for the most vulnerable refugees taking into consideration the burden of micronutrient deficiencies (e.g. anemia) amongst children, pregnant and lactating women. The food assistance should be in line with local dietary preferences, and nutritionally balanced to meet the kilo calories

and micronutrient needs of the population<sup>8</sup>. Enhanced access should be ensured, in line with DG-ECHO food assistance and nutrition policies. Food assistance should be complemented with contextual nutrition awareness sessions, and continued monitoring of food security and nutritional trends. DG ECHO might consider supporting the access to fresh food for the most vulnerable food insecure refugees only if socio-economic targeting will be possible and nutritional benefits will be demonstrated.

Vulnerability based targeting criteria rather than blanket status-based coverage will be the preferred approach to be included and progressively implemented in all project proposals. Partners should take into consideration the socio-economic capacity of refugee households and target the most vulnerable. Strict monitoring of inclusion and exclusion errors and key outcome indicators will be required.

The introduction of cash transfers is encouraged. 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.

### **Nutrition**

While trends of wasting undernutrition appear stable overtime, recent assessment<sup>9</sup> indicate a slight deterioration in acute undernutrition and worrying trends of anemia, stunting and obesity. Proposed nutrition assistance should contribute to stabilizing or reducing the prevalence of acute malnutrition, anemia, and underlying drivers of stunting among children under 5 years old and women. Focus intervention will include improved coverage and management of acute malnutrition through the existing food assistance system and provision of adequate supplementary feeding to children under 5 years old as well as lactating and pregnant women. Active community MUAC screening and referral and improved nutritional follow-up of infants and children in health facilities are also required. Education on nutrition good practices and infant and young child feeding approach (1000 days) targeting specifically mothers and families should be included as a complementary activity.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://docs.wfp.org/api/WFP-0000103413/download/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.wfp.org/publications/algeria-prro-200301-evaluation-nutrition-components>

## **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

There is a need to improve access to safe water and upgrade management and sustainability of WASH facilities/services. Any support will have to be in line with the guidance and priorities set by the water supply strategy and multi-year plan. The multi-annual WASH strategies should clearly address the issues related to rationalisation and efficiency gains expected from the gradual shift from a water trucking system to an extended water supply network. DG ECHO will support operations aimed to secure and preserve the water resources, increase water production and distribution and improve water management. Project proposals designed to improve access to safe water will have to integrate cost analyses and address only the most acute needs. Monitoring of the supplied services will have to guarantee the respect of minimum standards in terms of water quantity and quality.

All partners submitting WASH proposals are required to take into account the risks linked to natural hazards. Risk mapping of construction sites is mandatory. The COVID-19 pandemic serves as a reminder of the importance of these services in a daily emergency context. Lessons learned from the pandemic should also be included in any project proposal. Activities that can strengthen wash preparedness for response to waterborne diseases or to react rapidly to “unpredictable” or latent events are also recommended.

## **Health**

Needs analysis of new proposals should be based on Health Information System data. Proposals should reflect lessons learned from previous projects in the sector of health.

The list of problems that need to be addressed includes but is not limited to (1) the gaps in preparedness in case of spread of communicable diseases (including Covid-19), (2) the existing prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as anemia, malnutrition or obesity, (3) prevention and promotion of healthy lifestyle and adequate nutrition.

DG ECHO will consider project proposals guaranteeing the provision and management of drugs, including those for non-communicable diseases and small equipment. Local purchases of drugs and medical equipment need to respond to the quality criteria as described in the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA). Cost effective local purchases are encouraged, whenever appropriate.

## **Education in Emergencies (EiE)**

Through the Education in Emergencies (EiE) policy DG ECHO promotes continuous access to safe, inclusive, quality formal and informal education for girls and boys affected by protracted humanitarian crises. DG ECHO will give priority to project proposals which:

- i. target children that are out of school or at risk of dropping out;
- ii. increase retention and transition to secondary education through tackling relevant causes for absenteeism and drop out;
- iii. provide continuous capacity development of underqualified and unqualified teachers and other education staff;

- iv. provide ad hoc support and materials to improve teaching and learning outcomes;
- v. promote a contextualized and holistic approach (i.e. mainstreaming Protection, WASH, nutrition, DRR).

EiE project proposals should include an analysis of protection risks such as forced marriage, gender based discrimination, exclusion of people living with disabilities, SGBV, etc. They should also integrate appropriate prevention and mitigation measures to allow children to learn lifesaving and life-sustaining skills, and increase their personal resilience.

EiE project proposals should ensure a safe and gender sensitive learning environment. Specific needs of people living with disabilities should be addressed as to promote inclusiveness. Project proposals should follow the regular school year and cover at least one full academic year to avoid disruption.

Some kind of financial support to voluntary teachers is clearly a key issue at stake. However, any increase in incentives requires a coordinated approach across sectors (education, health, wash...), between humanitarian organisations and an agreement with the Sahrawi camps authorities. Additionally, the engagement of development actors is required to ensure sustainability of the system.

### **Shelter and non-food items:**

Project proposals providing shelter and NFIs will be considered only in case of response to a natural disaster. They need to be in line with DG ECHO Shelter and Settlement thematic policy.

### **Security**

DG ECHO acknowledges the security risks for humanitarian workers in the Saharan context. Security-related costs will therefore continue to be eligible.

### **DRR and environmental impact mainstreaming**

All project proposals submitted to DG ECHO should be in line with the Grand Bargain commitments. They should be risk informed (cf. the resilience marker). The latter means that they should systematically integrate risk assessments and monitoring of potential hazards as well as anticipate their impacts.

Humanitarian actors have a collective responsibility to ensure that their work does not contribute to the deterioration of the environment. This calls for taking all necessary measures to reduce the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid as specified in the HIP Policy Annex.

## **EGYPT**

DG ECHO seeks to contribute to the effective implementation of an equitable “One Refugee approach” by complementing the support provided by development/stabilization/migration donors to refugees and asylum seekers. It will support

protection programming that prevents, reduces, mitigates and responds to the protection threats of the most vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees.

### **Protection mainstreaming as a pre-requirement**

A protection risk analysis must be carried out and used as an entry-point for the design of all proposed interventions. It shall be included in the section “Problems, needs and risk analysis”. Under the “Response analysis” section, partners should explain how the designed intervention intends to reduce the identified protection risks. Section 4, “Assumptions and risks”, should describe protection and gender-related adverse effects of the humanitarian intervention. Contingency measures should be clearly identified.

Partners are expected to mainstream protection, and use protection-sensitive targeting (using gender age markers), to ensure access to basic services in regards to do no harm (including safety and security), meaningful access, accountability (including complaints and PSEA mechanisms), and participation. Protection mainstreaming aspects should be systematically monitored throughout the intervention by using specific impact indicators at objective level. These must measure the protection-mainstreaming principles of the intervention and the percentage of beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex, age, and diversity) reporting that humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable, and participatory manner.

### **Protection**

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

- ✓ Child protection, including special assistance for vulnerable UASC and other specific groups. Priority will be given to partners that are able to deliver services to UASC and other disadvantaged groups, including a Best Interest Assessment (BIA), alternative care arrangements, and case management. Coordination and advocacy on child protection issues could be supported if relevant, and if the partner can demonstrate experience and an added value in coordination.
- ✓ Assistance to victims of all kinds of violence, including Gender Based Violence (GBV).
- ✓ Community-based protection interventions focusing on enhancing the self-protective capacities of refugees, including through effective referrals to services, information and counselling services.
- ✓ Mental Health & Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS), targeting individual and group enhanced well-being. PSS services will be supported for partners with a demonstrated track record on providing PSS in the context, and all PSS interventions must include indicators that measure improvements in the well-being of the targeted population. PSS service providers should also provide information on linkages or referral pathways to Mental Health services.

### **Basic Needs Approach in Integrated Protection Programming**

DG ECHO may consider addressing basic needs through multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) integrated with protection programming, and based on a robust protection risk analysis, with protection as the entry point. The objective should be to reduce specific protection risks for vulnerable, conflict affected people excluded from other forms of 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 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.

In the absence of a full-fledged social protection scheme for refugees, project proposals for basic-needs assistance will be assessed against well-defined and properly monitored vulnerability criteria, and solid and transparent targeting mechanisms aimed at strengthening support to the severely vulnerable, while reducing discrimination among the different refugee groups. The response should include robust referral/appeal systems and linkages with complementary actions to guarantee accountability to the affected population, equity, and transparency.

Any delivery of assistance for specific sectoral purposes must demonstrate sound technical justification (grounded in contextualized evidence), due coordination within the sector and with the Cash Working Group and ensuring do no harm principles.

### **Education in Emergencies**

DG ECHO will support interventions that help vulnerable refugees in entering, re-entering or being retained in education, with emphasis on formal education. This may involve non-formal education support to provide pathways for children to transition into formal streams (or, where this is not possible, other resilience pathways), or support to children to directly enter and be retained in formal schools. Proposals should demonstrate a focus on out-of-school children and those at risk of dropping out, with pathways into accredited formal education clearly reflected upon, based on solid needs analysis. Support to community learning centers (Sudanese, Syrian, etc.) will be considered, if furthering pathways into formal education are addressed (through research/advocacy, sector planning/coordination, transition/referral activities etc.). All education actions should be complemented with child protection responses and strong child safe-guarding mechanisms. Coordination with development partners, other EU instruments, the Egyptian Ministry of Education, and

other relevant line ministries, together with sector and refugee working groups, must be specifically addressed in proposals. In addition, proposals should align with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) principles and recognise minimum standards for Education in Emergencies (INEE) and Child Protection. A COVID-19 response, to ensure continuity of interventions, and a solid phase-out strategy towards sustainability are to be included in the proposals. Targeting of areas with the highest concentration of refugees will be prioritized.