

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP) SOUTHERN AFRICA AND INDIAN OCEAN¹

The full implementation of this version of the HIP is conditional upon the necessary appropriations being made available from the 2021 general budget of the European Union

AMOUNT: EUR 44 500 000

The present Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) was prepared on the basis of financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2021/01000 (Worldwide Decision) and the related General Guidelines for Operational Priorities on Humanitarian Aid (Operational Priorities). The purpose of the HIP and its annexes² is to serve as a communication tool for DG ECHO³'s partners and to assist in the preparation of their proposals. The provisions of the Worldwide Decision and the General Conditions of the Agreement with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

0 MAJOR CHANGES SINCE THE PREVIOUS VERSION OF THE HIP

First modification as of 06 May 2021

The levels of food and nutrition insecurity in the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region are alarming as a result of multiple factors including the on-going and unprecedented droughts, impact of COVID-19 mitigating measures, increased cyclonic activities, conflicts and macro-economic slow-down pushing economies into recessions and leading to high unemployment, inflation and high food prices.

The levels of acute food insecurity have significantly deteriorated over the past 24 months reaching almost 29 million people in IPC3+ (crisis or emergency), as reported in the latest IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification by Country SADC Snapshot published on 16 March 2021.

The most affected countries are notably:

- **Angola** is facing unprecedented drought, 3.8 million people are facing high levels of food insecurity (IPC3+), especially in the South-West and across to the north-east parts of the country. About two million people live in the area of highest risk at present and half of all Angolans are under moderate risk.
- **Eswatini**, 350 000 people (some 31% of the population) are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity, including nearly 30 000 people in food emergency);
- **Lesotho**, about 40% or 600 000 people are projected to be in IPC Phase 3 or over with small pockets of highly vulnerable populations in food emergency;
- **Madagascar**, more than 1.3 million people (35% of the population) in Grand Sud are food insecure. The food and nutrition crisis is deepening in severity due to

¹ This HIP covers the following countries in the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region (SAIO): Angola, Botswana, Comoros Islands, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

² Technical annex and thematic policies annex.

³ Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).
ECHO/-SF/BUD/2021/91000

dramatic crop losses this year, coming on top of several years of drought and poor harvests. The 2021 Flash Appeal for Madagascar for the period January – May 2021 is 72% funded. As the crisis continues to grow, the appeal will be revised and extended in the period ahead and more resources will be required;

- **Malawi**, around 2.64 million people (15% of the analysed population) will likely be facing acute food insecurity;
- **Mozambique**, forecasts estimate some 1.7 million people to be food insecure in the country between April and September 2021, down from 2.9 million between January and March 2021. Cabo Delgado remains the main food insecurity hotspot, with estimates projecting an increase from 665 000 to almost 769 000 people facing high acute food insecurity⁴. The situation may further deteriorate. The 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan is less than 2% funded for the food security requirements
- **Zimbabwe**, 35% of the rural population (3.4 million people) are facing high levels of acute food insecurity. In urban areas, an additional 2.4 million people are estimated to be equally vulnerable. The 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan amounting to USD 507 M is only 3.9% funded for the food security requirements.

To respond to these additional needs in Southern Africa Indian Ocean an additional **EUR 20 million** will be allocated from the Solidarity Emergency Aid Reserve after approval of the relevant request by the Budgetary Authority to support an urgent scale-up of the humanitarian response in the counties most affected by emergency food insecurity. The scale-up will be primarily focused on the delivery of emergency food and nutrition assistance, supported by emergency multi-sectoral response as needed. The assistance will prevent the food crisis from worsening. Further specifications are provided in the Humanitarian Implementation Plan Technical Annex.

1 CONTEXT

The Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (SAIO) region is highly vulnerable to various hazards ranging from floods, cyclones, droughts and epidemics resulting in loss of lives and livelihood assets. Disasters represent a major source of risk for the most vulnerable populations and their recurrence can undermine development gains. In some countries, this burden is exacerbated by a challenging political and socio-economic environment, such as Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Malawi, Lesotho, Eswatini, by internal conflict and insecurity such as in Northern Mozambique and overall by structural fragilities and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵

The region was just recovering from the ‘El Niño’ phenomenon in 2015/16, which led to the worst drought in 35 years, when during the 2018/2019 rainfall season, a severe drought affected central and western parts of the region, leading to a deterioration in food security. Extreme weather events are a regular occurrence in the region and are becoming more frequent and intense as a result of climate change. In many places, the growing

⁴ Hunger Hotspots: FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity (March to July 2021 outlook) | World Food Programme

⁵ Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Malawi, Lesotho and Eswatini are identified as priority countries under the 2021 HIP. However, DG ECHO may consider allocating funds in the event of unforeseen or sudden-onset events where needs are unmet and local capacity overwhelmed, depending on availability of funds. Eligible countries are all those in the SAIO region covered by this HIP.

season is exceptionally hot and dry, while in others, erratic rains undermine harvests. Large parts of South of Angola, Botswana, northern Namibia, north-western South Africa, Zambia and north-western Zimbabwe received their lowest seasonal rainfall since at least 1981, severely impacting food security in 2020.

Concurrent with drought are cyclones and floods. In the first half of 2019, several countries experienced flooding caused by extreme weather events; heavy rains, hailstorms, strong winds and two consecutive, powerful cyclones (Idai and Kenneth) - affecting large parts of Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique. Idai and Kenneth left a trail of destruction – destroying hundreds of acres of crops, leading to population displacements and the destruction of vital infrastructures - and millions of vulnerable people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance⁶⁷. Besides the meteorological disasters mentioned above, poor agriculture techniques, depleted soil fertility, crop pests, land access disputes, lack of access to food, and volatile food prices further worsen the overall food security situation. In some countries, this burden comes on top of challenging governance, and socioeconomic situations. As a result, there are high humanitarian needs related to food and nutrition insecurity across the SAIO region. According to the July 2020 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis, an estimated 30.1 million in the SAIO region⁸ were food insecure in 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic is further aggravating the humanitarian context across the region. Persons of concern are facing barriers in accessing services, while humanitarian actors encounter obstacles in delivering assistance. The repercussions on remittances within the region are expected to also have far-reaching consequences and to increase the economic vulnerabilities of already marginalised communities. Many poor households in much of the region are currently having difficulty meeting their food and non-food needs as a result of significant loss of income due to COVID-19 related restrictive measures and lockdowns in several countries including South Africa, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique. It is likely that the economic consequences of the outbreak will result in a further increase of vulnerability and humanitarian needs during the 2020/21 lean season period (ordinarily from November to March), that may start earlier and last longer.

Zimbabwe is experiencing a deepening economic crisis, with reduced access and availability of food, fuel, and medicines. Rampant inflation has led to sharp price increases for basic commodities, while drought, increasing price of fuel and inputs impact on farmers' capacity to plant. Compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, Zimbabwe's health crisis is worsening. Decreasing availability of safe water, sanitation and hygiene have heightened the risk of communicable disease outbreaks for 3.7 million vulnerable people.

An emerging serious cause for concern in the region is the worsening conflict situation in **northern Mozambique (Cabo Delgado)**. The province has suffered from violent activity for nearly three years, with armed groups attacking villages and civilians and clashes between security forces and armed groups, causing death and displacement and exacerbating the humanitarian situation. In 2020, there was a dramatic increase in armed violence, overwhelming the humanitarian context in an already fragile and poor

⁶ <https://www.unocha.org/southern-and-eastern-africa-rosea/cyclones-idai-and-kenneth>

⁷ <https://reliefweb.int/report/mozambique/southern-africa-cyclones-idai-and-kenneth-snapshot-10-july-2019>

⁸ This figures includes Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Province. Displacement has risen rapidly as violence has escalated, and the displaced have reached neighbouring provinces of Niassa and Nampula.

DG ECHO's Integrated Analysis Framework for 2020-2021 identified **extreme humanitarian needs in Mozambique due to the prevalence of the conflict and insecurity in Cabo Delgado as well as high humanitarian needs related to the food and nutrition crisis across the SAIO region**. Six countries score high in DG ECHO's 2020 Forgotten Crises Assessment: Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

According to the INFORM Risk Index, in the Southern Africa Indian Ocean region the vulnerability of the affected population is assessed to be “very high”, including due to the risk posed by a likely food and nutrition crisis, as well as by the internal violence in Cabo Delgado.

Table 1 –INFORM Risk Index 2021 / HDI and Population

	Angola	Botswana	Comoros	Eswatini	Lesotho	Madagascar	Malawi	Mauritius	Mozambique	Namibia	Seychelles	South Africa	Zambia	Zimbabwe
INFORM Risk Index	5.0	3.0	3.9	3.7	4.3	5.2	4.8	2.0	6.7	3.9	2.0	4.7	4.3	5.1
Vulnerability Index	5.2	3.7	5.3	5.3	6.0	5.1	6.1	1.4	7.2	4.9	1.6	4.7	5.7	5.9
Hazard and Exposure	3.5	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.9	3.8	2.9	2.1	6.4	2.5	1.5	5.2	2.4	3.9
Lack of Coping Capacity	6.9	4.6	7.1	5.4	6.8	7.1	6.4	2.8	6.5	5.0	3.2	4.2	6.0	5.9
Global Crisis Severity Index					3	3	3		3	2			2	3
Projected conflict risk	5.5	0.6	0.4	1.5	1.8	0.4	1.1	0.1	8.8	0.3	0.0	7.8	1.5	4.1
Uprooted People Index	4.8	1.6	0.0	2.3	0.9	1.8	5.2	0.0	6.5	3.1	0.0	6.6	5.3	4.1
Natural Disaster Index	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.5	6.1	4.5	3.7	5.8	4.3	2.8	4.9	3.5	4.7
Humanitarian Conditions					2.5	2.5	3.0		3.5	2.5			3.0	4.0
HDI Ranking (Value) ⁹	0.581	0.717	0.503	0.588	0.52	0.519	0.477	0.79	0.437	0.647	0.797	0.699	0.588	0.535
Total Population (in Million) ¹⁰	31,82	2,30	0,85	1,14	2,12	26,96	18,62	1,26	30,36	2,49	0,09	58,55	17,86	14,6

2 HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

2.1 People in need of humanitarian assistance:

Table 2 – IDPs, Refugees, Returnees, Children at risk of education disruption and food insecure populations in SAIO

⁹ Available on September 2020 at: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/hdi-by-country>

¹⁰ World Bank: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator>

Category	Namibia	Angola	South Africa	Eswatini	Lesotho	Madagascar	Botswana	Mauritius	Malawi	Mozambique	Zimbabwe	Zambia	Total
IDPs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	368.342	43.352	n/a	411.694
Refugees	5.553	55.635	266.694	2.009	360	311	1.020	22	46.456	26.211	21.662	90.263	515.154
Returnees	207	780	n/a	n/a	21.580	177	n/a	n/a	1.020	15.341	28.574	863	68.542
Children at risk of education disruption (millions)	0,75	8,7	14,6	0,38	0,58	7,4	n/a	n/a	6,8	8	4,1	3,5	54,8 (million)
Food Insecure People (IPC3+) (millions)	0.434	1.05	n/a	0.37	0.55	0.55	n/a	n/a	2.62	0.65	8.6	2.33	17,154 (million)
Global Acute Malnutrition* (>5 Year children) % - <small>*based on most recent surveys data available</small>	7.1%	4.9%	2.5%	2.0%	2.1%	6.4%	7.3%	n/a	1.3%	4.4%	4.2%	2.9%	n/a

2.1.1 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and their host communities and those in need of protection

The region experiences all types of population movements, including mixed and irregular migration, labour migration and displacement due to conflict and natural disasters. There are over 368 000 IDPs in the whole of Mozambique and over 43 000 in Zimbabwe.¹¹ The sharp escalation of the conflict in Cabo Delgado in 2020 has led to increasing numbers of IDPs, estimated to be 330 000 as of September 2020 – approx. five (5) times higher than the number of IDPs at the end of 2019 and a 91.5% increase since March 2020-, mostly living with host populations, putting strain on already scarce resources. An estimated 300 000 individuals are hosting IDPs; most of these host families are food insecure in a region classified as IPC 3. Following Cyclone Kenneth, as estimated 200 000 people are still living in damaged or destroyed houses or makeshift shelters, and 6 600 are still living in five resettlement sites in Cabo Delgado and Nampula Provinces, Mozambique. Natural disasters and economic shocks expose communities to displacement and exacerbate vulnerabilities and protection needs. IDPs often face needs related to shelter, food insecurity, WASH, Education in Emergencies and protection and increased risk of undernutrition.

2.1.2 Vulnerable populations exposed to natural disasters

Major natural hazards in the region are cyclones, floods, strong winds, landslides, drought and fall armyworm (FAW) infestation¹². These natural disasters often undermine food production adversely affecting about 70% of the region's population that depend on agriculture for food, income and employment. Populations most affected by these disasters are those living in the areas most exposed to these hazards and the poorest with no or limited access to basic services such as water and sanitation, health infrastructure. The impact of crises exacerbates this vulnerability, making effective humanitarian assistance even more necessary, particularly in resilience building and preparedness. The national disaster management authorities (DMAs) and the local community based civil protection committees need also to be capacitated and equipped to be able to

¹¹ Rapid Response Plan Cabo Delgado and revised HRP Zimbabwe (2020)

¹² According to the FAO, the Fall Armyworm (FAW), or *Spodoptera frugiperda*, is an insect that is native to tropical and subtropical regions. In its larva stage, it can cause significant damage to crops, if not well managed. It prefers maize, but can feed on more than 80 additional species of plants, including rice, sorghum, millet, sugarcane, vegetable crops and cotton.

operationalise the already existing Disaster Preparedness policies and guidelines and to prepare for, anticipate, mitigate and respond to disasters.

2.1.3 Refugees and asylum-seekers, migrants and returnees

Currently, the region is hosting over 509 000 refugees, mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo (approx. 193 000) and Burundi. Main drivers that lead people to seek refuge in neighbouring countries are recurrent conflicts in the region and beyond, and migration and displacement due to economic challenges in their home countries and natural disasters. Many of these populations are dependent on humanitarian assistance provided by the international community as well as local and national actors, as they have very limited options to engage in livelihood activities. Most seek refuge in South Africa, followed by Malawi, Zambia, Angola, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and loss of jobs, the number of returnees to their home countries during the past months was over 68 000, for the countries covered by this HIP.

2.1.4 Food insecure people

Over 16 million people are projected to be in IPC3+ between October and March 2021¹³. The major root causes of vulnerability are associated with multiple compounded factors including: droughts, flood events that affected harvest production in 2019/20 agricultural season, macro-economic crisis (Zimbabwe), livelihood impact of COVID-19 in the entire region. In Madagascar, the April 2020 IPC indicates 554 000 (24% of the population analysed in nine districts in the Grand Sud) were already in Crisis or more (IPC Phase 3+).¹⁴ In Mozambique, several districts in at least 7 out of 10 provinces¹⁵ are projected to be in crisis IPC3 with an estimated number of over 3.9 million people in that phase¹⁶; this on top of food insecurity specific to IDPs and hosting families in Cabo Delgado. In Eswatini, between October 2020 and March 2021, 366 000 people (32% of the population) is expected to experience high acute food insecurity, with 307 000 people classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 60 000 people as Emergency (IPC Phase 4).¹⁷ In Lesotho, between October 2020 and March 2021, 582 000 people (40% of the population analysed) is expected to experience high acute food insecurity, with 482 000 people classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 100 000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).¹⁸ In Zimbabwe the number of food-insecure people is anticipated to increase by almost 50% by the end of 2020 with approximately 8.6 million people (60% of the population), including rural and urban areas, expected to be food insecure due to drought, economic recession, and COVID-19¹⁹. Inflation rose to 837% by August 2020 undermining ability to meet basic needs. The food security situation is compounded by worsening health, water and sanitation conditions across the country. In Malawi, a recent IPC report shows that 3 major cities, two districts and an overall 2.6 million people are projected to be in

¹³ Angola, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe IPC report available and OCHA Situation report. Some figures yet to be confirmed with new IPC report yet to be published before end 2020 for some countries.

¹⁴ IPC Madagascar - April 2020.

¹⁵ FEWSNET -Mozambique – As per September 2020

¹⁶ Food Security Cluster – Communication in Sept. 2020 – and OCHA Mozambique Situation report – 10 September 2020

¹⁷ IPC Eswatini - August 2020.

¹⁸ IPC Lesotho - August 2020.

¹⁹ OCHA, Zimbabwe situation Report, 21 Aug 2020

IPC 3 from October 2020 to March 2021²⁰. In Namibia 0.4 million people are projected in IPC 3.²¹

2.1.5 *Children under the age of 5 affected by Acute Malnutrition*

Despite none of the countries having emergency thresholds, based on national prevalence, it is estimated that the countries covered by this HIP have an accumulated number of almost 3 million under 5 years old children with global acute malnutrition.²² The root causes of malnutrition in the SAIO generally are associated to multiple causes, such as sub-optimal infant and young child feeding practices including very poor dietary diversity but the recent aggravation in some countries seems associated to increased food insecurity, limited access to health care and, in the case of Northern Mozambique to population displacement due to the conflict in Cabo Delgado²³. At least further 300 000 children are projected to be moderate or severe acute malnourished between October and March 2021 in Madagascar, Mozambique and Zimbabwe alone. In addition, very high prevalence of chronic malnutrition (stunting) is reported in Mozambique (42.3%), Madagascar (41.6%), Malawi (39%), Lesotho (34.6%), Zambia (34.6%) and Comoros (31.1%), as well as high prevalence in Botswana (28.9%), South Africa (27.4%), Eswatini (25.6%), Zimbabwe (23.5%) and Namibia (22.7%)²⁴.

2.1.6 *Populations affected by education disruption*

In high risk disaster-prone areas such as in Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, Madagascar and Zimbabwe, **children are often at risk of missing school** due to various factors including use of schools as evacuation centres, inadequate school infrastructure, which cannot withstand disasters, damage to school infrastructure and learning equipment, inaccessibility of schools due to destruction of roads and bridges, displacement or, in the most food insecure areas, due to lack of financial resources. Students, especially girls, from poorer households or with disabilities are often the first to suffer reduced access to education, especially during the period between October and April coinciding with the lean and cyclone seasons. During the peak of COVID-19, over 54 million children have been affected by various form of education disruption. Countries are increasingly reopening schools, but various forms of education disruption will remain for several months. In Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, attacks by armed groups have destroyed more than 107 schools, affecting more than 56,000 children and 1,100 teachers as of June 2020. In Zimbabwe, some 1.2 million children of school age are facing challenges accessing education.

2.2 **Description of the most acute humanitarian needs.**

2.2.1 *Protection*

Throughout the region, natural disasters and economic shocks expose vulnerable communities to protection risks and increase vulnerability and discrimination, exacerbating pre-existing gender and social inequalities. Vulnerable communities across

²⁰ IPC Malawi – September 2020

²¹ IPC Namibia – September 2020

²² JMA Data 2020.

²³ OCHA Humanitarian Snapshot – July 2020

²⁴ SADC RVAA Synthesis Report 2020

the region continue to turn to negative coping mechanisms, including child and forced marriage, worst forms of child labour and transactional sex, due to extreme food insecurity, lack of employment opportunities as well as limited or lack of access to humanitarian assistance. Community mechanisms, basic services and coordination need to be maintained and strengthened to mitigate increased protection/social needs of the population. **The COVID-19 pandemic is further increasing protection needs** across the region. Attention needs to be paid to stigma and discrimination towards migrants, in their destination, during transit and upon their return, due to fears around COVID-19 transmission, which may lead to further exclusion from health and other essential services. In **Cabo Delgado (Mozambique)**, protection needs are exacerbated by the armed conflict and insecurity affecting more than 700 000 people – of which the majority are children (40%) and women. More than 330 000 persons are displaced by violence in Cabo Delgado with spill-over effect to Nampula and Niassa provinces. IDPs as well as those who remain in attacked communities – often the most vulnerable and marginalised – are exposed to significant security and protection risks. There have been serious violations of International Humanitarian Law and human rights conventions, reports of human rights abuses against civilians, including killings, abductions and kidnappings of civilians (including girls and women), possible forced recruitment of children into armed groups, sexual and gender-based violence and burning and looting of public and private properties and infrastructure, extortion of goods. Human rights abuses have also been reportedly committed by the Mozambican armed forces. Issues of freedom of movement and harmful coping mechanisms are also at stake. An immediate and comprehensive response is needed to alleviate the effect of this violence (including notably access to health, mental health) as well as remedial action to mitigate and even prevent the threats when possible.

2.2.2 *Food Security & Livelihoods*

Food insecurity is on the rise in the region. Recurrent hydro-meteorological disasters, poor agriculture techniques, depleted soil fertility, crop pests, land access disputes, lack of access to food, and volatile food prices are worsening the overall food security situation, compounded by governance, social and economic issues. In April 2020, OCHA reported that, in the countries covered by this HIP, over 15 million were in severe food insecurity and the current projection seems to indicate a further increase above 16 million people.²⁵

In several countries, the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures put in place have impacted the humanitarian situation and weakened the existing system. The already difficult food security situation has been exacerbated by the necessary measures taken by governments to contain the pandemic, impacting livelihood of already vulnerable groups, including farmers affected by drought and floods as well as refugees and migrants.

2.2.3 *Nutrition*

Food insecurity represents a threat for children under the age of five, who are particularly vulnerable to becoming acutely undernourished, with already negative trends in several countries (i.e. Madagascar and Zimbabwe). The adoption of negative coping strategies and increased protection issues is already observed and will likely increase if not responded to. The SAIO region is faced with a triple burden of malnutrition characterised

²⁵ OCHA Southern Africa Humanitarian Snapshot - April 2020 – Projections based on recent IPC reports and WFP updates.
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by undernutrition (stunting and acute malnutrition); over-nutrition (overweight/obesity); and micronutrient deficiencies. Climate change and natural disasters further increase the risk of malnutrition, as droughts and floods disproportionality impact the most vulnerable across the region. Further, the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictive measures has resulted in reduced access to diverse food and nutrition increasing the risk of malnutrition. It is projected that as a result of COVID-19 containment measures, the acute malnutrition situation across the region could increase by 25% or more in 2020 and early 2021.²⁶

2.2.4 Health and WASH

The burden of infectious diseases is high in many countries across the region. Epidemics, in particular measles, cholera, malaria, yellow fever and other communicable diseases, occur frequently with an extended geographical scope. Many of these outbreaks require urgent support of emergency, humanitarian and specialised actors to support national authorities for adequate containment and response (beyond the health sector).

About 16.5 million people across the region live with HIV. While South Africa has the highest number of people living with HIV, Eswatini has the highest HIV prevalence in the world.

As the COVID-19 pandemic reached the African continent in early 2020, its impact has led to a gloomy economic outlook across the region. As of 25 August 2020, there are over 720 000²⁷ confirmed cases in the SAIO region with the highest number in South Africa. Local capacity to respond varies from country to country. Several countries have experienced acute shortage of essential supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE), diagnostics and medical supplies and testing capacity. Various reviews of the global response have evidenced that the bulk of COVID-19 related initiatives since the onset of the pandemic have been coming from local and national responders operating with limited resources, which calls for stronger investment in local capacities and for humanitarian funds to be used where appropriate in order to enable fragile countries to better prepare for future crises of such magnitude.

In Zimbabwe, the deteriorating humanitarian situation is compounded by worsening health, water, sanitation and hygiene conditions across the country: old and poorly maintained water/sanitation facilities need investment and upgrades to prevent waterborne disease outbreaks. Lack of currency in the country and power blackouts have resulted in the closure of water treatment plants, leaving up to 2 million people without access to clean water. Access to health care has become restricted as shortages of medicine and medical staff persist and the economic crisis continues to worsen.

In many areas in Northern Mozambique, the influx of IDPs has increased demand on an already inadequate WASH infrastructure with additional and/or rehabilitation of water points and latrines required in host communities. The lack of adequate WASH infrastructure hampers the prevention of waterborne disease outbreaks. Since January 2020, Cabo Delgado is experiencing a cholera outbreak with over 1 530 cases and 23 deaths reported. Acute watery diarrhoea outbreaks are exacerbating the crisis in Cabo Delgado where 25 health facilities are closed and 596 health workers fled due to insecurity.

²⁶ SADC RVAA Synthesis Report 2020

²⁷ OCHA - Interactive map - COVID-19 in Southern and Eastern Africa -available on September 2020 at: <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/southern-eastern-africa>
ECHO/-SF/BUD/2021/91000

2.2.5 *Shelter and Non Food Items (NFIs)*

The provision of shelters and NFIs is essential for displaced population's camps or settlements from the onset of a response and especially for newly displaced population being for natural or man-made disasters. With violent attacks continuing in **Cabo Delgado**, most displaced people first seek shelter with host families, who themselves most often do not have adequate shelter conditions. Hosting displaced leads to overcrowding, unhealthy conditions and increased vulnerability.

2.2.6 *Education in Emergencies (EiE)*

Schools are often used as emergency shelters after disasters, which can cause education disruption and is not an appropriate solution for IDPs, as schools rarely have adequate infrastructure or equipment to accommodate them. In other instances, schools have been used for military purposes – contrary to the commitments of the Safe Schools Declaration – with direct implications on the continuity of education. In all the five countries targeted in this HIP for EiE and Disaster Preparedness (Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe), there is a need to strengthen education systems to prepare for and respond to natural and in some areas also for man-made disasters, such as through the Comprehensive School Safety Framework²⁸. In areas prone to natural hazards, education systems need to be equipped and prepared for and take steps to actively reduce risks to learners, education staff and physical infrastructure of schools and minimise education disruption and enhance children's safe access to schools and quality learning during and after natural disasters or during the outbreak of a pandemic, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected over 54 million students in the region²⁹. The needs include both hardware and soft components.

Both in conflict and natural disaster prone areas there is a need to establish temporary learning spaces and/or provide adequate temporary facilities, alternative and non-presential learning methods and adequate preparation including emergency stock piling.

2.2.7 *Disaster Preparedness (DP)*

The regional DP strategy adopted in recent years has proven to be effective in enhancing DP at different levels and strengthening capacity for rapid response to recurring disasters. However, the magnitude, intensity and severity of recent natural disasters demonstrate the need to expand to more geographical areas that were previously considered at lower risk, and further prepare for larger impact shocks, areas already at risk. The potential of the national disaster management authorities (NDMAs) and the local community based civil protection committees is significant, but they need to be capacitated and equipped to be able to operationalise the already existing DP policies and guidelines and to prepare for, anticipate, mitigate and respond to disasters. In addition, there is a need to adapt DP to urban settings and climate change. In order to rapidly respond to the needs of crisis affected populations, there is a need to advocate for and reinforce existing national shock responsive social protection systems to expand vertically or horizontally³⁰.

In the SAIO region, there is a conducive environment to pilot and scale up the use of innovative and green technologies as well as collaborations with Research institutes.

²⁸ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector (2017) Comprehensive School Safety Framework.

²⁹ <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/may-2020/coronavirus/africa-schools-are-closed-learning-goes>

³⁰ See Regional Inter-agency Standing Committee (RIASCO) lessons learned report of July 2017

Continued efforts to expand and strengthen the Early Warning Systems (EWS) is needed as well as to strengthen the linkage between EWS, Early Action and anticipatory action/Forecast Based Actions (FbA). It is now necessary to scale up activities, build capacity and equip the various NDMAs on the use of these technologies in all components of EWS and in search and rescue operations.

In addition, one of the most critical lessons learned from recent cyclone events in the region is the need to have logistic capacity enhanced with large and well managed emergency stocks strategically prepositioned in disaster-prone areas regularly affected by cyclones and floods; to have NDMAs and local actors able to manage larger prepositioned stock and more actors and local government willing to replenish them ensuring ownership and increasing self-sufficiency. Stocks must be adapted to type of events, as guided by contingency plans, and informed by forecasted multi-risk assessments. This would contribute to faster, more efficient, climate proofing, and environment friendly humanitarian responses.

3 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND COORDINATION

3.1 National / local response and involvement

Regional level: At regional level the SADC DRR Unit has the mandate to play a key role in disaster response and preparedness. Their *SADC Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy and Fund 2016-2030* describes the regional priorities and highlights key gaps to be addressed, e.g. the necessity for a regional Disaster Risk Management (DRM) data system, a regional disaster response mechanism and a Regional Emergency Response Team. There is however a need to improve the operationalisation of the strategy and promote further coordination between disaster preparedness and response structures at regional and national level.

National level: Overall, the capacity of governments to implement disaster preparedness activities and respond to natural disasters has made significant advances. However, the capacity to face disasters of extreme magnitude, such as the 2019 cyclones, remains low. DRM policies and frameworks exist, although their effectiveness is often limited due to limited technical capacity of the Disaster Management Authorities (DMAs) and insufficient resources allocated by governments at central and provincial/ district level. The DMAs in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe have been active and present during the Idai and Kenneth cyclone response, providing personnel, equipment and some financial resources. Collaboration with international organisations is generally conducive and collaborative. Nevertheless, the response demonstrated the need to strengthen rapid response capacity and coordination. Capacity to respond was, in part hindered by lack of effective response coordination, lack of emergency contingency financial resources and insufficient strategically prepositioned emergency stocks. This resulted at times in delayed response, even when international response was relatively fast; in some cases, it took weeks for relief items to reach beneficiaries. Strengthening coordination capacity and prepositioning of emergency stocks thus needs to be scaled up.

Various DMAs reinforce early warning systems (EWS) at central, district/province and community levels, although the EWS frequently remains disconnected from the hydrological and meteorological services and a significant number of communities still needs to be reached by these EWS. At community and district level, civil protection committees exist, and, have proved to be crucial during disaster response when they have been properly trained and equipped. However, in several areas, support is still needed to

create formal structures and build adequate capacity in DP/DRR. In Mozambique, the Early Warning System has been significantly improved in some of the most hazard prone areas. EWS still needs to be rolled out to cover all of the most at risk areas, and to better integrate meteorological and hydrological data at all levels.

There is openness towards the use of innovative technologies such as mobile technologies and drones in Mozambique, Madagascar and in Malawi where these technologies have demonstrated their pertinence and effectiveness.

The modality of cash transfer interventions in humanitarian response is generally accepted in the region and promoted by governments³¹. Some countries deliver food assistance using their own grain reserves. However, the magnitude of food insecurity means that international support is usually necessary.

Regarding the specific situation of Cabo Delgado, it is worth mentioning that the government of Mozambique has been requesting for more humanitarian assistance in Northern Mozambique. Temporary accommodation centres are being put in place.

3.2 International Humanitarian Response

The focus of the international humanitarian response is related to Disaster Preparedness and to addressing the consequences of natural disasters. A second priority is the refugee programmes in countries like Angola and Zambia, and the situation in Zimbabwe. In 2020, the emerging priority is the conflict in Cabo Delgado.

Disaster Preparedness – The main donors involved in disaster preparedness/mitigation in the SAIO Region are the EU and its member states (IRISHAID, Belgium, France, Italy, etc.), DFID, NORAID, USAID/OFDA, the World Bank/GFDRR, several UN agencies, framed within long-term development strategies with some integrating wider climate change adaptation programmes.

Overall, the Humanitarian Response across the region is largely underfunded:

- Zimbabwe: revised HRP 2020 for USD 800.8 million (19% funded) both for drought and multisector macroeconomic related humanitarian need and COVID-19 (USD 85 million);
- Mozambique: COVID-19 Flash Appeal May–Dec. 2020 (Flash appeal) USD 68.1 million (19% funded);
- Cabo Delgado Province Mozambique Rapid Response Plan 2020 USD 35.5 million (65, 4% funded) however reported needs only covered the May-December 2020 period and they have already largely increased since its redaction.

Other Appeals related to COVID-19 crisis and other humanitarian needs, including drought:

- Madagascar Emergency Appeal for COVID-19 (June-August 2020) USD 82.3 million;
- Combined COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan (March – June) and Malawi Emergency Appeal (May - October 2020), USD 345 million which also integrates development, for COVID-19, including multisector needs;
- South Africa Emergency Appeal for the Impact of COVID-19 (May - November 2020) USD 136 million.

³¹ With the exception of Mozambique where it is accepted on pilot basis.
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Other (not Appeal nor HRP) but reported in the FTS OCHA:

- Zambia COVID-19 Emergency Appeal USD 132.9 million and the Zambia Intersectoral COVID-19 Response Plan 2020 USD 125.6 million (15% funded);
- Central Emergency Respond Funds (CERF) allocation in 2020 in SAIO: Angola: USD 3.5 million; Zimbabwe: USD 34.8 million; Madagascar: USD 4 million; Mozambique: USD 14 million; Namibia: USD 3 million.
- The Regional Refugee Response Plan for refugees coming from the Democratic Republic of Congo for 2020-2021 includes a budget of USD 29,4 million for Angola for a planning figure of 26 000 refugees, as well as a budget of USD 74.7 million for Zambia for a planning figure of 50 000 refugees (4.7% funded) .

3.3 Operational constraints

3.3.1 Access/humanitarian space

In Northern Mozambique, humanitarian access is a huge challenge with security and logistical constraints to reach the most vulnerable. Northern districts of the province are particularly affected, especially after the attacks in March 2020, when aid organisations working in Cabo Delgado had to pull back to the provinces capital city, Pemba.³². Therefore, the humanitarian capacity needs to be strengthened to be able to work in a very volatile situation. There is a need to adopt/reinforce conflict-sensitive and principled approaches. The security of humanitarian personnel needs also to be adapted. Otherwise, access is rarely an issue in the SAIO Region from a security point of view. Some areas frequently affected by natural disasters are not or are sometimes difficult to reach due to logistical constraints and in particular in times of disasters. Measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 could prove problematic. Movement restrictions and border closures could make access to certain areas difficult. The preparedness component of such areas needs further resources to ensure a more efficient response capacity.

3.3.2 Partners (presence, capacity)

Major humanitarian partners are present in the region. The presence of development programmes and expertise presents opportunities to mainstream/link humanitarian funded actions to development programmes with appropriate advocacy and sustainable outcomes in the long term. Conflict-sensitive approaches need to be integrated in Northern Mozambique. Overall, there are no major problems in terms of absorption capacity among DG ECHO partners, which usually collaborate in a very constructive way both with local NGOs and private sector.

3.3.3 Coordination

While OCHA is providing very important support at regional level, the coordination of specific needs in countries, e.g. in Cabo Delgado might be required. Similarly, additional coordination linked to large crises like Zimbabwe but also in countries like Eswatini and Lesotho currently facing ongoing emergencies may be required.

³² <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/feature/2020/05/28/Mozambique-Cabo-Delgado-Islamic-State-SADC-ECHO/-SF/BUD/2021/91000>

4 HUMANITARIAN – DEVELOPMENT – PEACE NEXUS

DG ECHO Country Team has involved counterparts of other EU services (DEVCO, FPI, EEAS and EU Delegations) in the elaboration of the 2021 HIP priorities and identification of nexus opportunities. Likewise, EU Delegations across the region have included DG ECHO in their identification of priorities under the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework (MFF), in accordance with EU priorities.

Moreover, DG ECHO has regular exchanges and consultations with other major donors in the region, including USAID, DFID, and other EU Member States aiming to improve nexus through coordination and complementarity between humanitarian and development programmes. This also takes place through regional workshops organised by DG ECHO such as the Disaster Preparedness workshop organised in November 2019 in South Africa.

Listed below are a number of concrete and successful programming **priorities**, expanding on the many **opportunities** to strengthen the nexus approach in the region:

4.1 Nexus opportunities related to chronic food insecurity and building resilience to drought in Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe

EU Development funds play a significant role to build resilience by addressing chronic food insecurity, livelihood, livestock and chronic malnutrition. During exceptional drought or flood-induced food insecurity, these programmes are complemented during their implementation period by ad hoc humanitarian responses funded by DG ECHO. There are positive examples of continuum (successive) post-crisis development livelihood recovery and resilience programmes, purposely designed targeting most drought affected areas where DG ECHO humanitarian response was implemented. Similar complementarities have been sought with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO -ex-DFID), USAID and other development funds in several countries since the 2016 El Nino drought. In the last 12 months almost EUR 60 million from the European Development Funds (EDF) has been transferred to DG ECHO in the region to address both COVID-19 and climate-related food insecurity.

Innovative approaches promoted by DG ECHO and adopted by the EU Delegations like the Crisis Modifier and the adoption of Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSPS) are concrete and positive ways to achieve nexus and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of combined humanitarian and development programmes. This has been demonstrated in particular in Lesotho, Madagascar and Malawi, where the EU Delegations have made significant contributions to strengthen national social protection systems. In some cases the crisis modifier adopted by EU Development programmes e.g. in Malawi and Lesotho have been used to inject resources through the social protection system for response, thus limiting the need for additional humanitarian funds. In Zimbabwe, the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF), a robust Crisis Modifier allows new financial resources to be mobilised to mitigate impact of unforeseen shocks/stresses. While building upon these positive experiences, nexus priorities with regard to food security and building resilience to drought under the 2021 HIP include: (i) establishment and strengthening of SRSPSs, (ii) establishment of robust and flexible funding mechanisms (Crisis Modifier), (iii) the improvement of early warning systems,

(iv) strengthening post-crisis livelihood recovery and resilience, as well as (v) the improvement of food systems and agricultural outputs.

4.1.1 Nexus opportunities with regard to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

DG ECHO funded actions aim to enhance logistics and emergency stock prepositioning for faster and localised response capacity in case of cyclones and epidemics and other disasters. In parallel, EU Delegations are developing multi-year DRR programmes and DG ECHO is providing technical support in the design and future implementation: the “Resilience building and Disaster Response Management in the Indian Ocean (RDRM), led by the EU Delegation in Mauritius, and the “Intra-ACP Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Programme” that will include the SADC region. These programmes will include components of prepositioning that will benefit from the logistic capacity developed with DG ECHO funds. Moreover, crisis modifiers will be included enabling these development programmes to trigger rapid response with the technical support of DG ECHO.

DG ECHO supports multi-hazard Early Warning System in hotspot areas highly exposed to disasters. Opportunities could be explored with the EU Delegation and other development actors to support national Disaster Management Actors and to set the stage for a potential future hand-over of such initiatives.

The World Bank and UNDRR play an increasing role in DRR in the region. Synergies have been put in place between World Bank and DG ECHO funded actions leading to the installation of water gauges for EWS in Mozambique and Malawi. Moreover, their DRR programmes often complement DP activities at district and community level and in the promotion of innovative technologies (ie. UAV) where other DRR funds are less active.

4.1.2 Nexus opportunities in early recovery of natural disaster affected populations

During the post Idai and Kenneth cyclones in 2019 in Mozambique, ECHO mobilised significant humanitarian funds. Subsequently EU DEL with Development funds contributed to a series of assessments and development funds to promote recovery. For any future natural disasters, DG ECHO envisions to provide emergency response to affected populations, while collaborating with EU Delegations and DG DEVCO to use developments funds addressing early recovery.

4.1.3 Nexus opportunities in Education in Emergency

DG ECHO supports Education in Emergency (EiE) in Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Lesotho and Zimbabwe for disaster preparedness activities in schools located in risk prone area (cyclones/floods) and ensuring education during and after disasters. DG ECHO funds contribute to developing guidance for more resilient school infrastructure to face natural disasters. This support informs and contributes to development programmes in those countries where EU and MS development funds contribute to more structural support for better education.

4.1.4 Nexus opportunities in developing a comprehensive response in Northern Mozambique

In Cabo Delgado there is a need and an opportunity for the operationalisation of a nexus approach, thereby ensuring that humanitarian, development, security and other policies all work together to better link urgent relief and longer-term solutions, in a people-centred way. The nexus approach should maintain a strong DG ECHO mandate with a principled approach to respond to the most acute needs. It should also allow humanitarian considerations, notably protection related ones, to be better included in the political dialogue.

At operational level, humanitarian response funded by DG ECHO can be complemented by development and FPI funding.

The use of cash transfer modality, advocated and promoted by humanitarian actors including ECHO and FCDO, could be linked to national social assistance supported by the EU as part of the response to COVID-19. The launching of the Northern Integrated Development agency in August 2020, could also bring new development funding opportunities to follow up, notably from the World Bank and partners. DG ECHO will pursue its collaboration with all EU services engaged in this triple nexus approach.

5 ENVISAGED DG ECHO RESPONSE AND EXPECTED RESULTS OF HUMANITARIAN AID INTERVENTIONS

The humanitarian response shall be compliant with EU thematic policies and guidelines that are described in detail in the HIP Policy Annex. For instance, mainstreaming of protection, gender (including mitigation of risks of SGBV), age, and disability inclusion should be duly reflected in all proposals.

Furthermore, the increasingly negative consequences of environmental degradation and climate-related challenges and the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to impact humanitarian crises and the provision of humanitarian assistance for the foreseeable future. For these reasons, in their proposals partners are requested to follow an all-risks assessment approach, to contemplate measures to reduce the environmental footprint of operations and to factor in as appropriate the COVID-19 dimension.

5.1 Envisaged DG ECHO response

This HIP covers response to man-made disasters and to natural hazards, Education in Emergency as well as disaster preparedness (DP). Its focus is on the humanitarian consequences of internal conflict in Mozambique, on the impact of the socio-economic crisis in Zimbabwe and within the wider region, as well as on the needs arising from man-made disasters and natural hazards, including their regional spill over. This HIP furthermore allows for a possible response to new crises in the region, in countries with limited capacity to cope, and/or where national or local capacity may be overwhelmed. In terms of disaster preparedness, the focus of this HIP is on regional and national multi-hazard preparedness for response and early action. Synergies with EU Civil Protection and nexus opportunities with other EU instruments will be explored where practical and feasible. Where feasible, an adaptation and use of crisis modifiers in order to respond to a

sudden-onset crisis within a crisis remain important in ECHO strategy. Development linkages and nexus opportunities will be pursued where practical and feasible.

The strategy of this HIP is structured around three pillars:

Pillars	Countries covered
Pillar 1: multi-sector response to any natural and man-made disasters affecting the region	Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Eswatini, Lesotho and South Africa - Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, Zambia,
Pillar 2: Education in Emergencies (eie)	Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe
Pillar 3: Disaster Preparedness	Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe

5.1.1 *Pillar 1: multi-sector response to any natural and man-made disasters affecting the region*

The main priority of this pillar is to provide needs-based, rapid and lifesaving humanitarian aid to populations affected by natural or man-made disasters such as the conflict in Northern Mozambique as well as Zimbabwe. This pillar concerns humanitarian needs related to natural and/or man-made disasters during the duration of the HIP. The response will be multi-sector including food assistance, nutrition, WASH, shelter, health, protection, and any other relevant sectors based on the most recent needs analysis of the affected population, and should reflect vulnerabilities related to gender and age, food and nutrition insecurity (i.e. IPC 3+), HIV/AIDS status, and be coherent with DG ECHO policies. A single multipurpose assistance modality using a unified delivery mechanism would be preferred when possible.

In view of the current availability of funding for response within this HIP, ECHO will mainly focus on priority 1. Priority 2 is subject to the evolution of the situation and severity of food and nutrition needs during the lean season. Priority 3 will be subject to occurrence of new disasters and availability of additional funding.

Priority 1 – Multi-sector response in Northern Mozambique and Zimbabwe

In order to respond to the consequences of conflict and insecurity in Cabo Delgado, multisector humanitarian assistance, with protection as overarching sector as well as the promotion of IHL, is needed. The assistance will prioritise people exposed to violence, notably in hard to reach areas, people staying behind as well as IDPs and their host communities in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa Provinces.

DG ECHO's support for Zimbabwe in 2021 will continue to focus on basic survival services, with protection and nutrition as priority sectors, for the most vulnerable populations affected by the severe food insecurity, economic crisis and COVID-19.

Priority 2 – Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA) and Nutrition in Lesotho, Eswatini and Madagascar.

Specific needs of vulnerable populations in IPC3+ (crisis/emergency) areas in Madagascar, Lesotho and Eswatini to address uncovered food and nutrition needs during

the lean season would be considered. Other countries may be considered in function of new HFA and nutrition needs assessed during the lifetime of the HIP.

Priority 3 – Emergency response to any natural and man-made disasters

In the event of unforeseen or sudden-onset events, DG ECHO may consider allocating funds to respond to natural and/or man-made disasters where needs are unmet and local capacity overwhelmed. Eligible countries are all those covered by this HIP.

5.1.2 Pillar 2: education in emergencies (EiE)

Target countries: Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe.

The priorities for DG ECHO under the EiE aims to ensure education continuation in the context of natural and man-made disasters. The provision of EiE interventions is highly relevant for displaced populations in Cabo Delgado, as the conflict has caused education disruption for thousands of pupils. EiE will target high risk areas in terms of natural hazards such as cyclones, floods and landslides. While integrating Conflict Sensitive Education (CSE) principles in the response, it is important to provide safe learning spaces and psychosocial support to teachers and pupils, and to ensure teacher recruitment and retention (as teachers leave due to general insecurity).

Especially when access is a challenge, innovative technological solutions, including those developed during COVID-19 such as offline applications, tablet or radio learning, may be an appropriate option to ensure continuous learning.

Priority 1 – Ensure safe learning spaces and provision of adequate education programmes for children in areas affected by violence and displacement

This priority applies principally to Mozambique as an area at particular risk of violence (i.e. Cabo Delgado), and other areas identified with risk of violence and conflict. EiE action in refugee/IDP camps with clear identified and unmet needs are also eligible.

Priority 2 – Increase disaster preparedness capacities of schools, teachers and pupils and ensure minimal education disruption

DG ECHO will prioritise actions that promote the inclusion of multi-hazard data and analysis in Education Information Management System (EMIS) and incorporate DRR in education curriculum. Attention will be given to prepositioning of emergency equipment and educational supplies for disaster prone-areas as well as the rehabilitation, relocation and retrofitting of schools or access structures for disabled people, based on needs analysis. Support will also be provided to projects that train teachers and other education personnel on DRR, adapt appropriate EiE/DRR manuals, promote innovative solutions and catch-up/accelerated education programmes³³ ensuring continuity of learning, and ensure that schools in disaster prone areas have safety and response plans in place.

³³ Partners are encouraged to use the definitions, tools and guidance developed by the AEWG (Accelerated Education Working Group): <https://inee.org/collections/accelerated-education>

5.1.3 Pillar 3: Disaster Preparedness

Target countries: Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Regional projects may be eligible.

The priorities for DG ECHO under the DP pillar of its strategy in SAIO will be: Strengthening and Linking Early Warning (EW) to Early Action (EA) and adoption of risk-based and anticipatory actions; Preparedness in conflict and fragile settings; Climate and environmental resilience and Urban Preparedness.

Support is envisaged for enhanced DP for response and early action in contexts of recurrent and predictable crises, building upon ongoing actions and lessons learned from recent crises, and linking to national systems and longer-term strategies. This includes supporting national disaster management systems at central and community levels, reinforcing early warning and linking early warning to early action.

Multi-Purpose Cash Transfer (MPCT) preparedness needs to become an intrinsic part of DP activities and, whenever possible, linked to Shock Responsive Social Protection Systems (SRSPS) to ensure faster and more efficient use of cash. Advocacy for cash preparedness and technical support to national authorities and local partner organisations is crucial.

Activation of flexible funding mechanisms should be guided by a multi-risk analysis and scenario contingency planning. Logistics preparedness may be integrated especially to promote emergency stock piling. DP actions should predominantly address rapid onset natural hazards. As drought is a considerable phenomenon in the region, pertinent interventions may be considered, and interventions such as cash/social protection and education in emergencies – through awareness raising, sharing of good practices, behavioural change, integrating DP into curricula, and to provide contingency measures and skills to minimize risks related to climatic shocks - could serve the purpose to prepare for drought events. Partners are encouraged to work with local implementing partners, and to promote active involvement of targeted communities and their representatives, as well as authorities at all levels.

Priority 1 – Strengthening and Linking Early Warning (EW) to Early Action (EA) and adoption of risk-based and anticipatory actions

DG ECHO will support projects that include risk based and anticipatory actions, linking them to EWS. Strengthening institutional capacities in multi hazard EWS/EA and local preparedness/capacities, such as national DMAs, and enhanced logistic preparedness and emergency stock prepositioning is encouraged. Support will be provided to strengthen SRSPS and promote cash-based preparedness and use of innovative technologies. Integration and use of crisis modifiers is encouraged. Crisis Modifiers are an important component of building capacity for Early Action that needs to be further advocated for and integrated both by humanitarian and development programmes.

Priority 2 – Preparedness in conflict and fragile settings (Mozambique, Zimbabwe)

DG ECHO will prioritise actions based on a comprehensive context analysis, and will focus on community-based preparedness in conflict and fragile settings. ECHO funded actions may include training and capacity building of ECHO partners, working groups

and local actors in regard to protection and assisting populations affected by violence promoting DP aspects related to IDP camp management (CCCM).

Priority 3 – Climate and environmental resilience

DG ECHO will support project that include contingency plans to mitigate risks linked to large refugee, asylum seekers, migrants and/or IDPs inflows, that may have environmental consequences (i.e. deforestation, contamination of water catchments, etc.); use of innovative technologies and promotion of green/sustainable solutions in disaster preparedness will be prioritised. Capacity building of host, refugees, migrant and IDP communities on environmental management is encouraged where appropriate. DG ECHO encourages local purchase of supplies and pre-positioning them, for rapid access, inclusive distribution to all vulnerable groups and reducing impact on the environment.

Priority 4 – Urban Preparedness

DG ECHO will support risk and vulnerability assessments in urban settings including dynamic risk modelling and protection risk factors such as inequity, women head of households, unaccompanied and separated children, people with disabilities, elderly, etc. Contingency planning, EWS and evacuation plans should be adapted to urban contexts. Actions establishing urban community centres for delivery of adequate and accessible social services to the most vulnerable, promoting public awareness, and considering stockpiling of necessary protection materials may be funded under this HIP.

Actions that enhance preparedness of urban social care services and infrastructures to be shock-responsive to specific urban risks, linked to both exposure to natural hazard, and proneness to violence and high levels of criminality, may also be prioritized.

Crosscutting priorities for all Pillars - i) Adherence to humanitarian principles; ii) Protection mainstreaming; iii) Use of innovative and green solution as well as technologies aimed at enhancing efficiency; iv) Coordination and alignment with national policies and guidelines; v) Nexus; vi) Visibility and communication.

5.2 Other DG ECHO interventions

The Emergency Toolbox HIP may be drawn upon for the prevention of, and response to, outbreaks of Epidemics. Under the Emergency Toolbox HIP, the Small-Scale Response, Acute Large Emergency Response Tool (ALERT) and Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) instruments may also provide funding options.

There is also room for enhancing the use and activation by SADC Member states of the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)** that proved to be very important and useful in the region, but with still countries not sufficiently familiar with the available services that may be provided.