

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)

POLICY SUPPORT

AMOUNT: EUR 1 588 995

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 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. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE AMENDMENT

In Q3 of 2021, the following amounts were identified which remain unspent from the funds foreseen for policy support in the WWD:

- EUR 65 995 which has not been allocated to the HIP
- EUR 23 000 which was foreseen in the WWD for membership fees for CALP (the Cash Learning Partnership) and INEE (Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies). Because of the long process towards membership, these fees will not need to be paid in 2021 and the amounts required have been foreseen in the prerogative lines for 2022.

These funds can be added to this HIP to increase the amount available for policy support, more specifically the provision of expertise to assist policy development in support of humanitarian assistance through a framework contract.

1. CONTEXT

Humanitarian needs have continuously increased in scale over the last decades, and this trend is expected to continue. In light of the growing gap between humanitarian needs and funding levels, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance is a priority focus for the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO).

In order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of European Union's funding for humanitarian assistance and the larger humanitarian system, DG ECHO support is required to ensure the development of good humanitarian policies through the provision of relevant expertise in the areas concerned. Coordinated engagement between humanitarian Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and DG ECHO is also needed.

2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

1) People in need of humanitarian assistance:

The Global Humanitarian Overview 2021 estimates that the number of persons targeted by humanitarian assistance worldwide has more than tripled over the past decade, from 28 million (2008) to 105.1 million (2018). The growing number of actors involved in the humanitarian space, including increasing engagement from

non-traditional actors, requires a clear and coordinated approach towards effective, efficient and accountable humanitarian response.

2) Description of the most acute humanitarian needs:

The need for relevant, coherent and evidence-based humanitarian policies applies both directly to DG ECHO funding and more broadly to system-wide response. This is true for sectoral and cross-cutting policies (food assistance, education in emergencies, nutrition, protection, International Humanitarian Law, health, gender, WASH, disability inclusion, shelter and settlements, camp coordination and camp management, migration and forced displacement, logistics, environmental footprint, disaster preparedness and resilience, as well as the use of cash transfers, digitalisation, innovative finance and the humanitarian-development-peace Nexus), in line with DG ECHO's Grand Bargain commitments.

3. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND COORDINATION

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

In addition to these targeted actions, there is a need for more broad policy support.

4. HUMANITARIAN – DEVELOPMENT – PEACE NEXUS

As humanitarian crises are becoming ever more protracted, there is a need for longer term solutions for beneficiaries. Development actors have a role to play across sectors and thematic areas. At the same time, development and peace building activities might be relevant in building resilience to shocks and contributing to disaster risk reduction. DG ECHO strives to work through a Nexus approach to ensure its interventions, based on its policies, are complementing development and peace activities.

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

5.1 Envisaged DG ECHO response under this HIP

Considering the above, DG ECHO is proposing the financing of targeted humanitarian expertise that contributes to the quality and coherence of system-wide humanitarian response. The overall objective is to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance and efficient use of resources.

This financing will support:

Provision of expertise to assist policy development in support of humanitarian assistance

This includes contributions to, recommendations for and reviews of policy products under development, and undertaking specific studies and/or analyses to inform policy formulation and/or revision. This may extend to studies to review policy implementation and present 'state of the art' thinking in a given policy area and contributions to the elaboration or facilitation of training modules to feed the policy-making process.

Identified areas for the development of policy products include both sectoral and cross-cutting policy areas. Additional priorities could be defined on the basis of new challenges in the field of humanitarian assistance and disaster response.

These interventions will be implemented through a new framework contract.

5.2 Other DG ECHO interventions

DG ECHO makes use of an administrative arrangement with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) to improve and expand products that strengthen evidence-based assessments in humanitarian contexts.

DG ECHO's Enhanced Response Capacity (ERC) is supporting initiatives which seek to increase the capacity of the humanitarian community to respond to crises in the most effective and efficient manner. The initiatives have to be global and strategic in their vision and inclusive in their approach in order to contribute to eco-system wide change. The ERC focuses on initiatives which would not emerge or would not have the same systemic impact without dedicated funding, and which cannot be covered by DG ECHO's geographic funding envelopes.