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ANNEX I

to the Commission Decision on the financing of a special measure for humanitarian assistance in favour of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to be financed from the 10th and 11th European Development Funds (EDF) following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine for 2022

**Action Document for humanitarian assistance in favour of
Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries following Russia's war of aggression
against Ukraine**

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Commission Decision on the financing of a special measure in favour of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to be financed from the 10 th and 11 th European Development Funds following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine (ECHO/-FA/EDF/2022/01000) CRIS number: n/a
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries The action shall be carried out at the following locations: 1 - West and Central Africa (with specific focus on Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria) 2 – East and Southern Africa (with specific focus on Democratic Republic of Congo as well as the regional Burundi refugee crisis, the Horn of Africa region including Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and finally Madagascar, Mozambique and Zimbabwe), 3 – Haiti and other countries of the Caribbean region such as the Dominican Republic.
3. Programming document	N/A
4. SDGs	The action will contribute to SDG 2 – Zero hunger; SDG 11-Sustainable Cities and Communities

5. Sector of intervention/ thematic area	Humanitarian Food Assistance and Nutrition	DAC-reportable Assistance: yes		
6. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 145 500 000 Total amount of EDF contribution: EUR 145 500 000			
7. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	Direct management through: - Grants Indirect management with pillar assessed international organisation			
8 a) DAC code(s)	700 Humanitarian Aid 720 Emergency Response 730 Reconstruction, Relief and Rehabilitation			
b) Main Delivery	NGOs / UNs / IOs – 20 000			
Channel¹	Multilateral organisations – 40 000			
9. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)²	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and Women's and Girl's Empowerment ³	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	x		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation		x	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	N/A			

¹ <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/annex2.htm>

² When a marker is flagged as significant/principal objective, the action description should reflect an explicit intent to address the particular theme in the definition of objectives, results, activities and/or indicators (or of the performance / disbursement criteria, in the case of budget support).

³ Please check the Minimum Recommended Criteria for the Gender Marker and the Handbook on the OECD-DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker. If gender equality is not targeted, please provide explanation in section 4.5.Mainstreaming.

SUMMARY

The impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine on the price and availability of food, fuel, fertilisers and other commodities is projected to have potentially devastating consequences also on African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, particularly on internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees. These are very numerous in West, Central and Eastern Africa, the Great Lakes, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, mostly dependent on international assistance and already suffering from the overall humanitarian funding gap. In addition, increased fuel prices are impacting negatively on the cost of logistics, in particular when the extensive use of flights is required to reach difficult to access areas, as it is the case in several African countries and certain areas of Haiti. At least 115 million people in Africa, Haiti and the Caribbean are food insecure.

Considering the development and geopolitical ramifications of the unfolding food crisis, the European Council called for a comprehensive response and subsequently agreed on a Team Europe Response to global food insecurity as well as an exceptional EUR 600 million allocation of decommitted EDF funds, subdivided as follows: up to EUR 350 million for food production and resilience of food systems, up to EUR 150 million for humanitarian assistance and up to EUR 100 million for macroeconomic support.

The current Action Document concerns the EUR 150 million component of humanitarian assistance. The three components have been closely coordinated and will be implemented building on complementarities as well as synergies with a nexus approach, where possible.

Funds will be used to strengthen vulnerable populations' food security and nutrition status through modalities that would vary depending on the country and regional contexts (direct food assistance in kind/cash including multi-purpose cash, nutrition). The EDF allocation will focus on supporting the food/cash and nutrition pipeline while promoting protection of population as a central element of the response strategy. This EDF allocation will address the need to ensure continuity of cooperation from crisis to stable conditions for development.

In addition, it may be appropriate to foresee an increased support to logistics costs linked to access problem to respond to food insecurity.

In terms of geopolitical focus, it is crucial to effectively communicate about this additional support to partner countries following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, including in a Team Europe approach.

1 CONTEXT ANALYSIS

1.1 Context Description

Regional

This part describes the current projections for food insecurity in the targeted regions:

In West and Central Africa

- Burkina Faso: according to the latest Cadre Harmonisé -based on scenario prior to the aggression against Ukraine, 3.45 million people are in food crisis (IPC3+) during the 2022 lean season (June to August). More worrying still is that over 628 000 people are estimated to be in a pre-famine stage (IPC4), in 5 provinces (4 in the Sahel region, 1 in the Nord). In terms of nutrition, 179 000 children under 5 years old with severe acute malnutrition will require emergency life-saving treatment in 2022. The food and nutrition crisis is expected to severely worsen as all indicators of a markets analysis (April 2022) show a deterioration: the supply of agricultural products and mainly cereals is falling by more than 50 per cent on the majority of markets, especially in the Northern part of the country; basic cereals prices continue to rise by +78% compared to the average over the last five years.
- Cameroon: The latest 'Cadre harmonisé' analysis indicates that 2.4 million people in Cameroon are projected to face acute food insecurity between June and August 2022. The Far North region and the North West South West regions of Cameroon, both affected by ongoing violence, will be the most affected regions with almost 1 million people projected to face acute food insecurity (IPC 3+) in the Far North, and 1.22 million in the North West South West regions. Almost half of Cameroonians (48%) and up to 70% in the Far North and East regions do not have enough income or productive assets to get access to a nutritional diet. Climate extremes (drought/floods), and the recent steep rise in food prices are only adding to the complexity of the current food security situation. Moreover, at least 87 157 children under 5 years old will require emergency life-saving nutritional assistance in 2022. Cameroon is facing a shortage of stocks because of a lack of funding for the RUTF (ready to use therapeutic food) pipeline and because of delays in imports.
- Central African Republic: As per the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview released 3.1 million people (63% of the overall population) will need humanitarian assistance and protection this year. The situation has considerably deteriorated as this landlocked country is being hit hard by the impact of the war against Ukraine. The latest Integrated Food Security Classification (IPC) analysis (April 2022) indicates that about 2.2 million people in the Central African Republic are projected to experience high levels of acute food insecurity including 638 000 people in emergency (IPC4) between April and August 2022 due to conflict, population displacement and high food prices (exacerbated by the international economic situation). In addition, it is estimated that the number of people in need of nutritional assistance (*children under 5 years old suffering from Global Acute Malnutrition and Pregnant and Lactating Women*) is projected to reach 1,201,538 people in 2022.
- Chad: according to OCHA, in 2022, out of a population of a population of 17.1 million people, 6.1 million people are in need of emergency humanitarian assistance, more than a third of the population. This figure is likely to increase in view of the worsening of the food crisis and the impact of the Russian aggression in Ukraine. On 1 June 2022, the government declared a food insecurity and malnutrition emergency, with 2.1 million people expected to be in severe food insecurity during the lean season. In 2022, it is estimated that around 335 000 children under 5 years old will require emergency life saving malnutrition treatment. Due to poor harvest and high food prices the situation will likely deteriorate during the ongoing lean season.

- Mali: more than 1 841 000 people are in severe food insecurity (IPC 3-5), with a lean season started in April 2022 instead of June. This figure is likely to be underestimated as no IPC analysis was conducted in March 2022 due to a lack of funding. Some 309°000 under-5 years old children will be affected by Severe Acute Malnutrition. The number of people with a survival deficit and a livelihood deficit tripled between October 2021 and March 2022 in connection with a drop in cereal production in 2021 due to insecurity and climatic shocks and with a 30 % price increase of staple food and transport costs over the same period. These have a very significant impact, not only on the price of products in rural areas but also on the cost of delivering assistance.
- Mauritania: according to the last Cadre Harmonisé -based on scenario prior to the aggression against Ukraine 878 921 people are estimated in food crisis (IPC3+) during the 2022 lean season (June to August). This includes 83 000 people in a pre-famine stage (IPC4). In terms of nutrition, it is estimated that 32 000 children with severe acute malnutrition require treatment. Mauritania is not spared from the global price hikes on food and fuel and these trends are likely to further increase the vulnerability of people already exposed to food insecurity.
- Niger: A total of 4.4 million people are severely food insecure during the ongoing 2022 lean season. Among these people, 425 805 are considered in a pre-famine situation (IPC4). These results confirm an alarming food insecurity situation and constitute a historic record in Niger. Acute malnutrition is also reaching alarming rates: the global acute malnutrition (GAM) for children under 5 years is at 12.5%, i.e. above WHO alert threshold alert. The prevalence of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) is at 2.7% - i.e. above the emergency threshold of 2%. About 450 000 children under 5 years old are expected to need emergency life-saving treatment for severe acute malnutrition in 2022. The food and nutrition crisis is further exacerbated by high food prices, above financial coping capacities of vulnerable families. As a result of the current global trends, on average, basic food prices in May 2022 are 13% above 2021 prices at the same period and 23% higher than the 5-year average at the same period.
- Nigeria: The current humanitarian response is focused in the Northeast (Borno, Adamawa, Yobe States), where the situation is dire and continues to deteriorate. There are currently 8.4 million people in need of urgent assistance to survive and 2.2 million Internally Displaced People (IDPs). In addition, in the North East also, more than one million people remain inaccessible and do not receive any assistance. During the lean season between June and August 2022, the number of people facing critical food insecurity and crisis in Nigeria is estimated to climb to over 19.4 million people. In the Northeast only, this number is estimated to reach at least 4 million people (*estimate covering only accessible areas*). In addition, recent reports from humanitarian partners show a sharp increase of acute malnutrition cases in the Northwest and the Northeast. A total of 316,753 children under the age of five years old are expected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition between January and December 2022.

In East and Southern Africa

- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): The country reports 27 million people acutely food insecure at crisis or emergency levels. 2.4 million Congolese children under the age of five suffer from global acute malnutrition. The Congolese government has taken several measures, such as the suspension of value-added tax on certain imported foodstuffs, to maintain the price of foodstuffs on the market and to alleviate the food security effects of Russia's war in Ukraine. However, some increases have been noted, for example, the price of palm oil increased by over 60 percent and the price of maize flour increased by around 15 percent. An important proportion of maize and flour imported from Ukraine and Russia is no longer available on the markets in the DRC, or at higher prices. Fuel prices have become increasingly volatile and are rising in major cities, due to the lack of imports, even disrupting internal flights. The increase of conflict and violence in Eastern DRC has also resulted in a significant disruption of agricultural cycles and access to farmland.
- Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Tanzania (in relation to the Burundi regional refugee crisis): The refugees go hungry. The World Food Programme (WFP) was forced to reduce food rations for refugees in the Great Lakes region even before Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine due to funding shortages. WFP gets half of its grains out of the Ukraine-Russia area, which is going to have a dramatic impact on food costs, shipping costs, oil and fuel. This situation threatens to reduce food rations even further. At the same time, previous food ration cuts for refugees for example in Rwanda led to civil unrest, demonstrations and the deaths of refugees. A high prevalence of stunting among refugee children – over 30 percent – has been reported in the refugee camps in Tanzania.
- Kenya and Djibouti (Horn of Africa region): The current widespread and persistent drought in the Horn of Africa, after four failed rainy seasons, is unprecedented. At least 16.7 million people are currently facing high acute food insecurity levels (IPC3+). This number is projected to reach 20 million people by September. Food insecurity and acute malnutrition have been further exacerbated by rising global food, fuel and fertilizer prices. The historic drought has also affected Kenya and Djibouti: in Kenya, 4.1 million people are in need of immediate food assistance (3m in IPC3 and 1.1m in IPC4), which surpasses the number of severely food insecure people recorded in Kenya during both the 2016/2017 and the 2010/2011 droughts. In Djibouti, an arid country importing 90% of its food, prices of basic commodities have strongly increased as a result of the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the effects of the regional drought, leaving at least 16% of the population (192 000 people) in IPC3+ by the end of 2022.
- Ethiopia: it is estimated that a staggering 29.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, a 24% increase since 2021. The armed conflict in Ukraine will have a direct impact on the whole humanitarian response due to the significant reliance on direct imports from Ukraine and Russia for wheat and vegetable oil, and the increasing global oil prices. In 2021, approximately 45% of the cereals imported by food partners in Ethiopia were from Ukraine and Russia. The number of children requiring treatment for severe wasting shows a sharp increase, with 5.5-6.5 million in southern Ethiopia in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse.
- Somalia: The country is clearly at risk of famine in the coming months, as food prices have increased by more than 50% in five regions at risk of famine. Over 7.1 million

people (45 per cent of the total population), are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) including 2,1 million people facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) across Somalia, and pockets of more than 213,000 people are facing famine like conditions (IPC Phase 5) across one quarter of the country (30 districts). An estimated 1.5 million children face acute malnutrition.

- Sudan: the country is facing the worst food crisis in a decade, due to the combined effects of conflict, climate shocks, economic and political crises, rising costs and poor harvests. The situation considerably deteriorated as the country is hardly hit by the impact of the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The IPC figures released on 21 June 2022 indicates that over 11.7 million people are currently facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC3+), which represents almost 25% of the Sudanese population. While the country approaches the peak of the lean season, the World Food Programme released on 16 June the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA) showing that a record 15 million people in Sudan, or one-third of the population, are currently facing acute food insecurity, a figure that may even surge higher due to the increase in food prices linked to the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.
- South Sudan: food insecurity is at its highest since the independence of the country in 2011, fuelled by continuing conflict, severe flooding, localised drought and exacerbated by the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. An estimated 7.74 million people (62.7% of the population) will likely face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity during the lean season. This includes an estimated 2.9 million people likely to face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity as well as 87,000 people likely to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).
- Madagascar: 1.68 million people are currently food insecure at crisis or emergency level (IPC phases 3 and 4), 1.95 million people projected in Phase 3 and above from September to November 2022 in the Grand South and East Madagascar, including 185,275 people in emergency phase (IPC4). Forecasts estimate that over 2.06 million people are likely to face acute levels of food insecurity for the period December 2022 – March 2023. The country is 100% import dependent for wheat and its products and prices have already surged.
- Mozambique: Due to the combined effects of the conflict in Cabo Delgado Province and climatic shocks, such as droughts, cyclones, floods and erratic rains, at least 1.4 million people are facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC 3 or above) between April and September 2022, including 24,000 people in emergency country-wide. Areas most affected, especially Northern Mozambique, are facing elevated food prices due to limited supply and increased demand for market purchases..The Ukraine conflict is having a direct impact on Mozambique's food availability. The country imports essential goods and commodities from both Ukraine and Russia. Mozambique depends on import for 90 % of its wheat and sunflower seed oil needs; the country imports approximately a third of its wheat from Russia and Ukraine.
- Zimbabwe: A projected decrease in crop production in 2022 due to rainfall deficits, coupled with the adverse effects of hyper-inflation are expected to stress food insecurity

throughout 2022 and early 2023. The cost of the basic food basket in April had a year-on-year price increase of 131 percent. Prices for food and basic commodities are projected to come under further pressure considering the increase of international prices. Zimbabwe is 60% import dependent for wheat and its products. Nearly a third of the urban (1.63 million) and rural (3.52 million) population are currently food insecure. Food insecurity of rural households is expected to increase further to approx. 4.72 million (43%) by October to December 2022, and peak at 5.6 million (51%) from January to March 2023.

In the Caribbean Region:

- Haiti: The country has one of the highest levels of chronic food insecurity in the world with more than half of its total population chronically food insecure and 22 percent of children chronically malnourished. The last updated Integrated Food Security Phase classification of February 2022 confirms the critical food insecurity situation in Haiti where 4.5 million people (above 40% of the total population of the country and 45% of the population analyzed) are acutely food insecure (IPC phases 3 and 4), including 1.3 million people in an emergency situation (IPC phase 4). Haiti is among the 20 hotspots where hunger is expected to worsen in the coming months. The alarming food insecurity situation will further deteriorate, due to the increase in food and fuel prices related to the armed conflict in Ukraine, (Haiti imports 80% of its rice), the national currency depreciation, the political instability and the gang's violence that leads to displacement, market disruptions and exacerbates the economic crisis.
- Dominican Republic: The high dependence on imports of fuel, food and inputs for the agricultural sector, the effects of the post-COVID-19 crisis and the conflict in Ukraine have had a significant impact on both the availability of certain food stuffs and their prices and affect the levels of hunger and malnutrition in the country. According to WFP's Hunger Map as of June 2022, the Dominican Republic is the country with the second highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption in the LAC region (21% of the population), and the second highest prevalence of using food-based coping strategies to respond to crises (44%). In both indicators only behind Haiti. By the end of 2020, around 287,000 people (2.7% of the population) were already in a situation of severe food insecurity while 3.7 million people (35.5% of the population) were in moderate food insecurity.

1.2 Policy Framework (Global, EU)

The political sense of urgency in support of the most exposed countries has been underlined by the European Council in its Conclusions of 24-25 March 2022 by which it invited the Commission to prioritise work on global food security and affordability, in particular by supporting food security and agriculture in Ukraine and the most vulnerable and exposed third countries. The European Council, in its Conclusions of 30-31 May 2022, invited the Commission to explore the possibility of mobilising reserves from the European Development Fund to support the most affected vulnerable and exposed ACP partner countries.

This action responds to the call by the Council for a robust, effective and transparent Team Europe response to global food insecurity, and more specifically the first of the four strands of action on "Solidarity through emergency relief and support for affordability". It designs

measures to ensure continuity of cooperation from crisis to stable conditions for development and that cannot be financed from the general budget of the Union.

1.3 Public Policy Analysis of the partner country/region

Not available.

1.4 Stakeholder analysis

Both humanitarian and development partners are present in most countries.

The Commission (through DG ECHO⁴) benefits from the presence of humanitarian partner organisations on the ground, including specialised UN agencies, the Red Cross Movement, and certified humanitarian INGOs, all of them working with local partners, including local Red Cross National Societies, for emergency response.

When it comes to the emergency response to the food crisis, WFP for food assistance, UNICEF for nutrition and some pre-identified partners will be instrumental in addressing the pipeline gaps and the need to scale up food assistance and nutrition activities.

WFP is a DG ECHO strategic partner. WFP operates in all vulnerable countries affected by the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine with actions focusing on food and nutrition assistance, mostly targeting life-saving food support to refugees, internally displaced persons and vulnerable local communities. WFP is the main actor in food security, able to cover and scale up its operations country-wide, also through Rapid Response Mechanism. WFP is also a strategic partner to collect food security information and a key actor in logistics, providing UNHAS flights in the different regions/countries, well in line with ECHO priorities to ensure access to hard to reach areas.

UNICEF is the mandated agency in nutrition instrumental in making available nutrition supplies to the whole humanitarian community working on nutrition.

Beneficiaries of this financing decision are vulnerable and food insecure communities.

1.5 Problem analysis/priority areas for support

Following the Council Conclusions of 30-31 May 2022 and of 20 June 2022, the European Commission will prioritise its financial support to address global food security including immediate humanitarian needs.

The impact of the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine on the price and availability of food, oil, fertilizers and other commodities will have devastating consequences in Africa. It concerns not only the local population but also forcibly displaced populations such as IDPs and refugees, which are very numerous in West and Central Africa, Eastern Africa, in the Great Lakes and the Dominican Republic and Haiti and growing numbers in Mozambique (especially IDPs). Most of the time the refugees are fully dependent from food assistance and already impacted by food ration cuts.

In addition, the increased price of fuel is having a direct impact on the costs of logistics in Africa and some areas of Haiti, in particular when difficulties to access areas require the extensive use of humanitarian flights in addition to trucks.

⁴ Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

The continued economic impacts of COVID-19 risk widening existing inequalities, and supply chain disruptions will be compounded by the global reverberations of the Ukraine crisis. Higher prices of fuel, fertilizers and food will lead, without an adequate humanitarian food assistance, to reduced coping mechanisms, eroded livelihood capacity, impaired harvest production and vulnerable people unable to feed themselves during the next lean season and to restore their productive livelihood. In addition, the most vulnerable households will employ negative and unsustainable coping mechanisms, many of which will increase the protection needs of women and girls.

At least 115 million people in the West and Central Africa, East and Southern Africa and the Caribbean are food insecure.

This action will thus support sets of short term and immediate actions to help the most vulnerable to cope with the crisis. Funds will be used to strengthen vulnerable populations' food security and nutrition status through modalities that would vary depending on the country and regional contexts (direct food assistance in kind/cash including multi-purpose cash, nutrition). The EDF allocation will focus on supporting the food/cash and nutrition pipeline while promoting protection of population as a central element of the response strategy. The priority will be to target population in IPC 3 or above.

In addition, it may be appropriate to foresee an increased support to logistics costs linked to access problem to respond to food insecurity.

2. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Access and security: While access and security are not an issue in some of the targeted countries, it is the case in others. Parts of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Northeast Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan can be particularly challenging, both in terms of security, access, operational environment and logistics.

Access to affected populations is becoming more challenging due to the growing insecurity, but also and increasingly, due to restrictions imposed by authorities (including military) and non-state armed groups. The major supply routes are regularly disrupted by insecurity, by military and non-state armed groups' (NSAGs) activities. The deterioration of the humanitarian situation, combined with competition to access economic and natural resources, and services are also fueling inter-community tensions. Attacks against humanitarian workers, premises and assets are on the rise, leading to the need to exert further precautions to reach the local population in fragile areas.

DG ECHO and its partners have however the necessary extensive experience to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance to those in needs including in such challenging contexts. The wide range of partners allows the mobilization of the one with easier access to hard-to-reach areas, to limit the effects of constraints. Negotiation on humanitarian access and respect of IHL with all relevant interlocutors allows to take in better consideration both existing threats and humanitarian needs to make informed decisions.

Implementation capacity: Major humanitarian partners are present in most of the targeted countries. WFP and UNICEF in particular, are already well active, with teams experienced and used to the implementation and follow up of activities in the fragile contexts corresponding to the countries selected. The large variety and scale of their programmes, the wide range of implementing partners of WFP and UNICEF (from local to international organizations) and the

recurrent and protracted natures of the crises, make that these two partners have already tested and selected implementation modalities adapted to the local contexts and challenges. WFP and UNICEF are therefore expected to have the capacity to implement the food assistance and nutrition treatment activities foreseen. In addition some pre-identified partners complement actions led UNICEF and WFP.

Absorption capacity: A recent outlook of the Humanitarian Response Plans funding situation, show that in most countries, the food assistance and nutrition pipelines are actually severely underfunded, with respectively 85% and 88% of funding requirements unmet in these two sectors across West, Central Africa and Great Lakes regions. This worrying situation comes at a time when needs are exceptionally high and expected to increase further due to the high food and commodity prices as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This situation is confirmed at country level with WFP currently facing important risk of food assistance pipelines breaks before the end of the year, in all the targeted countries.

3 LESSONS LEARNT AND COMPLEMENTARITY

3.1 Lessons learnt

Food insecurity is driven by consequences of conflict, climate change and economic shocks, against a background of increasing poverty, vulnerability and inequality. These drivers are often interlinked and mutually reinforcing each other, leading to a very high level of needs, beyond the coping capacities of national systems. The increasing number and duration of conflicts makes it by far the first driver of hunger. Addressing the root causes of the food and nutrition crisis is key although these are long term perspectives which will not yield results immediately. Working on resilience building and anticipatory action is key to this endeavor which can only be successful if a nexus approach is applied at scale and across all contexts.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

1) Other humanitarian interventions

The interventions will be complementary to the ones put in place in the framework of the 2022 Humanitarian Implementation Plans (HIP), which support emergency response interventions linked to the high levels of food insecurity and nutrition, and relevant articulations will be ensured with actions funded under the 2023 HIPs.

2) Other concomitant EU interventions

This humanitarian component remains part and parcel of the comprehensive EUR 600 million package. Mobilisation and synergies with the production and resilience as well as macroeconomic support allocations will be actively pursued – in particular in countries in which the different allocations are mobilised.

Humanitarian Food Assistance	Both Humanitarian Food Assistance and Production & Resilience	Production & Resilience
Burkina Faso, Burundi (refugee crisis), CAR, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, Zimbabwe.	Cameroun, Caribbean (regional), Chad, DRC, Haiti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Somalia.	Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Malawi, Pacific (Regional), Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Uganda, Zambia.

Moreover, the action will be complementary to and be implemented in synergy with the current Union support for food security and food systems programmed under NDICI-Global Europe, including frontloading efforts in response to the current food crisis.

Regular exchange of information and coordination of short-, medium- and long-term humanitarian and development actions take place in line with the Action Plan for Resilience in Crisis-Prone Countries 2013-2020. EU Delegation staff often take part in humanitarian field assessment missions and consultations with key stakeholders, leading to common analysis of crises and coherent and comprehensive joint response plans. Coordination among actors is also crucial, especially if intervening in the same area with different modalities and in view of applying a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach.

3) Responsible Exit Strategy

While the actions funded under this decision will seek to address the most urgent needs arising from the soaring food crisis, joint planning with development stakeholders and advocacy towards the government to bring more capacity to the response are crucial from the early stages of the response. Partners will be asked to clarify how their actions intend to use the resources to ensure sustainability and strengthened capacity. All actions should look at linking the action with ongoing or upcoming development initiatives. Partners should monitor and take into account from the design of the project the dependency that the project could generate and elaborate appropriate strategies.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Overall objective, specific objective(s), expected outputs and indicative activities

The strategic objective of the EU humanitarian response is to provide:

- Humanitarian Food Assistance and emergency nutrition assistance to people affected by the severe food insecurity crisis following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

4.2 Intervention Logic

Humanitarian Food Assistance and emergency nutrition assistance to for the benefit of people affected by the current crisis, with a view to ensure continuity of cooperation from crisis to stable conditions for development.

4.3 Mainstreaming

Mainstreaming of **protection** principles is of paramount importance for each sector of intervention. This implies taking into account safety and dignity, avoiding causing harm, and ensuring meaningful access, accountability and participation and empowerment of affected communities as from the needs assessment to systematic and thorough monitoring throughout the action. Comprehensive and independent complaint and feedback mechanisms are essential.

All proposed interventions should be informed by a thorough **gender-informed risk** analysis to ensure that humanitarian projects reach the most vulnerable, respond adequately to their specific needs and do no harm. To this end, the needs and capacities of different gender and age

groups among targeted populations must be adequately assessed, and assistance must be adapted accordingly.

All humanitarian interventions to be funded under this Decision must take into consideration, together with other protection concerns, any risk of **sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV)** and should develop and implement appropriate strategies to actively prevent such risks.

EU humanitarian-funded actions need to be **environmentally friendly** (e.g., sustainable technical solutions including renewable energy).

As part of the Commission's commitment to protect operations from risks, to **mainstream disaster preparedness** in EU-funded humanitarian operations, and to contribute (to the extent possible) to building resilience, the needs assessment presented should reflect, whenever relevant, the exposure to the range of hazards and threats affecting people at the village/community level (natural hazards, economic or conflict -related threats), the related vulnerability of the targeted population and their ability to cope.

4.4 Contribution to SDGs

This intervention is relevant for the 2030 Agenda. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG 2 – Zero hunger; contribution to promotion of resilience.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with any of the country concerned.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The duration for the implementation of each humanitarian action will start on the date specified in the relevant agreements and may last up to 24 months.

5.3 Implementation modalities

In light of the humanitarian aid nature of the projects to be financed under this Decision, these projects will be implemented by the organisations and agencies eligible to receive EU humanitarian financing under Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid. Projects may be implemented either by entities to which financing is awarded under direct or indirect management depending on the specific in accordance with the following sub-sections.

5.3.1 Direct management (grants)

a) Purpose of the grant

To provide humanitarian food assistance and emergency nutrition assistance to people affected by the severe food insecurity crisis following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine as documented in the table in section 5.5.

b) Type of applicants targeted

1. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) satisfying the eligibility and suitability criteria provided for in Article 7 of regulation (EC) No 1257/96 to which the Commission, as represented by its Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), has awarded the Humanitarian Partnership Certificate 2021-2027 and which have relevant expertise in food assistance and emergency nutrition; presence in the geographical areas of intervention; and relevant financial and operational capacity to scale-up effective operations rapidly.

Pursuant to Article 204 of the Financial Regulation, grant beneficiaries may provide financial support of more than EUR 60 000 to third parties to implement actions if the action's objectives of the action would otherwise be impossible, or excessively difficult, to achieve. Such situations can occur, for example, in cases where only a limited number of non-profit, non-governmental organisations have the capacity, skills or expertise to help implement the action or are established in the country of operation or in the region(s) where the action takes place. The entities to be awarded grants under this Decision will be selected based on the merits of the proposals submitted to the Commission (see sub-section 5.3.3).

2. Member States specialised agencies referred to in Article 9 of regulation (EC) No 1257/96 and which have relevant expertise in food assistance and emergency nutrition; presence in the geographical areas of intervention; and relevant financial and operational capacity to scale-up effective operations rapidly.

c) Grants without call for proposals

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (a) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 for the purposes of humanitarian aid (which is made applicable to EDF funding by Article 32 of Council Regulation (EU) 2018/1877) to the following NGOs: ACF-ES, AVSI-IT, ACTED-FR, CROIX-ROUGE-ES, GOAL-IR, SI-FR, SI-ES, WEWORLD - GVC-IT. The envisaged entities have been selected using the following criteria: NGOs awarded with the Humanitarian Partnership Certificate 2021-2027 and with relevant expertise in food assistance and emergency nutrition; presence in the geographical areas of intervention; and relevant financial and operational capacity to scale-up effective operations rapidly. In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select another organisation using the same selection criteria.

5.3.2 Indirect management with an international pillar assessed organisation

a) Purpose of the contribution

To provide Humanitarian Food Assistance and emergency nutrition assistance to people affected by the severe food insecurity crisis following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine as identified in the table in section 5.5.

b) Potential entrusted entities

In addition to direct management modalities as described above and as documented in the budget table in section 5.5, this action may be implemented in indirect

management by WFP and UNICEF. The envisaged entities have been selected using the following criteria: organisations partners of DG ECHO; core mandate; relevant expertise; singular capacities; privileges and access, notably related to their international mandate, for effective delivering of humanitarian aid; presence in the concerned areas of intervention; financial and operational capacity.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select another organisation using the same selection criteria given above.

5.3.3 Selection criteria for the selection of individual projects (humanitarian aid actions) under both direct and indirect management

1) Relevance

☐ How relevant is the proposed intervention and its coverage for the objectives of the decision?

☐ Relevance of the intervention with DG ECHO humanitarian policies and principles

☐ Do joint (prioritised) needs assessment and coordination mechanisms of the humanitarian actors exist, and if so, has the joint needs assessment been used for the proposed intervention and/or has the proposed intervention been coordinated with other relevant humanitarian actors?

2) Capacity and expertise

☐ Does the partner, with its implementing partners, have sufficient country / region and / or technical expertise?

☐ How good is the partner's local capacity? Is local capacity of partners being built up?

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 actions (including where relevant use of single interoperable registries of beneficiaries).

☐ Extent to which the proposed intervention contributes to resilience, LRRD 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 displayed/explained?

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

5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for grants

Grants may be awarded in accordance with section 5.3.1 of this Annex.

5.5 Budget

Regions	Countries	Indicative amount (EUR)	Priorities for funding	Potential Partners / Pre-selected Partners
West and Central Africa	Burkina Faso	6 500 000	Food Assistance	WFP
	Cameroon	6 500 000	Food Assistance	WFP
	Central African Republic	6 000 000	Food Assistance	WFP
	Chad	7 500 000	Food Assistance	WFP
	Mali	6 000 000	Food Assistance	WFP
	Mauritania	1 000 000	Food Assistance	WFP
	Niger	6 000 000	Food Assistance	WFP
	Nigeria	7 500 000	Food Assistance	WFP
	Regional	1 500 000		
	Total	48 500 000		
East and Southern Africa	Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	16 000 000	Food assistance (including cash assistance) and nutrition	WFP UNICEF
	Burundi refugee crisis	2 000 000	Food assistance	WFP

	Regional HoA (including Djibouti and Kenya)	2 500 000	Food assistance (Multi-purpose cash assistance), nutrition	WFP, UNICEF
	Ethiopia	8 000 000	Food assistance and nutrition	WFP, UNICEF, WorldVision
	Somalia	8 000 000	Food assistance (Multi-purpose cash assistance), nutrition, logistics	WFP and UNICEF
	Sudan	29 000 000	Food assistance and nutrition	WFP and UNICEF
	South Sudan	5 500 000	Food assistance	WFP
	Madagascar (Great South and South-East)	4 000 000	Food Assistance (Cash in Great East – in Kind in Great South), Nutrition	WFP UNICEF
	Mozambique (Cabo Delgado)	8 000 000	Food Assistance	WFP
	Zimbabwe	4 000 000	Food assistance (cash in urban areas)	WFP, DCA
	Regional Southern Africa	500 000		
	Total	87 500 000		
Haiti and other countries in the the Caribbean region such as the	Haiti	6 500 000	Food assistance, Multi-purpose cash assistance, nutrition activities, logistics and coordination	ACF-ES, AVSI-IT, ACTED-FR, CROIX- ROUGE-ES, GOAL-IR, SI-FR, SI-ES,

Dominican Republic				WEWORLD - GVC-IT, WFP
	Regional	3 000 000	Food assistance	WFP
	Total	9 500 000		
TOTAL		145 500 000		
EDF Administrative Costs		4 500 000		
GRAND TOTAL		150 000 000		

The total amount to be made available by the EDF under this Decision is EUR 150 000 000, including EUR 4 500 000 for administrative costs. Upon adoption of this Decision, funding will be awarded by the Commission in accordance with the procedures used in the field of humanitarian aid.

The funds will complement actions funded under the relevant Humanitarian Implementation Plans 2022 and 2023.

Flexibility will be built in the actions in order to adapt to the evolving situation and identified needs. Food assistance and nutrition activities with support to the food/cash and nutrition pipeline will be the primary focus of this decision.

5.6 Performance and Results monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of actions to be funded under this Decision will be a continuous process, and part of the organisations to be funded by the Commission. Implementation, monitoring and reporting will be ensured in accordance with the contractual obligations applicable to humanitarian aid funding under Council Regulation (DEC) No 1257/96.

Each action to be funded under this Decision will be reviewed based on a logical framework (logframe) including results and indicators.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.7 Evaluation

Having regard to the humanitarian nature of the action, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components.

The Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

5.8 Audit

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of the measure, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

5.9 Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the actions to be financed under this Decision will be ensured in accordance with the usual contractual obligations applicable to humanitarian aid funding under Council Regulation (DEC) No 1257/96.

5.10 Implementation modalities with respect to EU restrictive measures

The Commission ensures that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance

of the action with European Union restrictive measures⁵. The Commission must always seek solutions that do not breach European Union restrictive measures. Accordingly, the Commission is required to channel humanitarian aid via actions and persons that are not restricted under the European Union restrictive measures.

However, in accordance with the relevant principles of international humanitarian law and with the principles of impartiality, neutrality and non-discrimination referred to in Article 214(2) TFEU, the Union must allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded access to humanitarian relief by persons in need.

Therefore, where no other options are available, the provision of assistance that qualifies as humanitarian aid should not be prevented by European Union restrictive measures.

⁵ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website, it is the OJ version that prevails.