

## TECHNICAL ANNEX

### UPPER NILE BASIN<sup>1</sup>

#### FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

The provisions of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2022/01000 and the General Conditions of the Agreement with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

The activities proposed hereafter are subject to any terms and conditions that may be included in the related Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP).

#### 1. CONTACTS

<b>Operational Unit in charge</b>	DG ECHO <sup>2</sup> /DDG/D3
<b>Contact persons at HQ:</b>	
Head of Sector	Philippe Bartholmé <a href="mailto:philippe.bartholme@ec.europa.eu">philippe.bartholme@ec.europa.eu</a>
South Sudan	Ellen Vermoesen <a href="mailto:Ellen.vermoesen@ec.europa.eu">Ellen.vermoesen@ec.europa.eu</a> Bérengère Tripon <a href="mailto:berengere.tripon@ec.europa.eu">berengere.tripon@ec.europa.eu</a>
Sudan	Karolina Andrzejewska <a href="mailto:karolina.andrzejewska@ec.europa.eu">karolina.andrzejewska@ec.europa.eu</a> Bérengère Tripon <a href="mailto:berengere.tripon@ec.europa.eu">berengere.tripon@ec.europa.eu</a>
Uganda	Bruno Franchetti <a href="mailto:bruno.franchetti@ec.europa.eu">bruno.franchetti@ec.europa.eu</a>
<b>Contact persons in the field:</b>	
South Sudan	Olivier Beucher (Head of Office) <a href="mailto:olivier.beucher@echofield.eu">olivier.beucher@echofield.eu</a> Laura Hastings (Technical Assistant) <a href="mailto:laura.hastings@echofield.eu">laura.hastings@echofield.eu</a> Evangelos Petratos (Technical Assistant) <a href="mailto:evangelos.petratos@echofield.eu">evangelos.petratos@echofield.eu</a>
Sudan	Wim Fransen (Head of Office) <a href="mailto:wim.fransen@echofield.eu">wim.fransen@echofield.eu</a> Laura Hernandez-Perez (Technical Assistant) <a href="mailto:laura.hernandez-perez@echofield.eu">laura.hernandez-perez@echofield.eu</a> Giorgia Pianelli (Technical Assistant) <a href="mailto:giorgia.pianelli@echofield.eu">giorgia.pianelli@echofield.eu</a>
Uganda	Bruno Rotival (Head of Office) <a href="mailto:bruno.rotival@echofield.eu">bruno.rotival@echofield.eu</a> Morten Petersen (Technical Assistant) <a href="mailto:morten.petersen@echofield.eu">morten.petersen@echofield.eu</a>

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<sup>1</sup> Upper Nile Basin for this HIP and Technical Annex covers South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda

<sup>2</sup> Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)  
ECHO/-AF/BUD/2022/91000

## 2. FINANCIAL INFO

Indicative Allocation<sup>3</sup>: **EUR 176 174 673<sup>4</sup>** of which an indicative amount of **EUR 14 000 000** for Education in Emergencies.

In line with DG ECHO's commitment under the Grand Bargain initiative, pilot Programmatic Partnerships have been launched in 2020 and 2021 with a limited number of partners. An indicative amount of **EUR 11 890 000** will be dedicated to these Programmatic Partnerships in 2022. In addition, new Programmatic Partnerships could be signed in 2022 with partners under indirect management. Part of the allocation of this HIP could therefore also be attributed to these new pilot Partnerships.

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

Country	Action (a) Man-made crises and natural hazards	Action (c) Disaster Preparedness	TOTAL
South Sudan	79 821 036	0	<b>79 821 036</b>
Sudan	58 000 000	1 000 000	<b>59 000 000</b>
Uganda	33 126 137	3 500 000	<b>36 626 137</b>
Programmatic Partnership Regional flexibility reserve*	417 912		<b>417 912</b>
Programmatic Partnership Coordination & Visibility*	309 588		<b>309 588</b>

\*In the framework of the pilot Programmatic Partnership with IFRC

## 3. PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT

### a) Co-financing:

Under the EU Financial Regulation, grants must involve co-financing; as a result, the resources necessary to carry out the action must not be provided entirely by the grant. An action may only be financed in full by the grant where this is essential for it to be carried out. In such a case, justification must be provided in the Single Form (section 10.4).

### b) Financial support to third parties (implementing partners)

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

<sup>3</sup> The Commission reserves the right not to award all or part of the funds made or to be made available under the HIP to which this Annex relates, or to allocate part of the funding to interventions with a regional or multi-country approach.

<sup>4</sup> Total amount of the HIP

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

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

c) Alternative arrangements

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

d) Field office costs

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

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

and

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

e) Actions embedded in multiannual strategies

Funding under this HIP may be used to finance actions implemented in the framework of multiannual strategies, as and when provided for in the HIP.

f) Regional and multi-country actions

Regional/multi-country actions can be supported under this HIP (and where relevant in conjunction with other HIPs<sup>5</sup>), where they are proven more suitable/effective than country-based interventions to respond to identified needs, taking into account the operating context, the strategy and the priorities set out in the HIP (or respective HIPs), the operational guidelines provided in section 3.2.2. of this Annex, as well as the applicant organisation's capacities. The proposals should specify the breakdown between the different country allocations.

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<sup>5</sup> For multi country actions falling under more than one HIP, partners are requested to submit only one proposal in APPEL. The single form should refer to the HIP that covers the majority of targeted countries.  
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#### **4. ADMINISTRATIVE INFO**

##### **Allocation round 1**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 111 700 000.
- b) Costs will be eligible<sup>6</sup> from 01/01/2022.
- c) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness as well as for any other sectors identified in this HIP when duly justified in view of improving efficiency/effectiveness of the interventions. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, can be submitted as modification requests for the ongoing action with a time extension of up to 24 months and a total duration of the modified action of up to 48 months. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 3 above)<sup>7</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions should have an initial duration of at least 24 months, unless there is a needs- or context-based justification for a shorter duration.
- d) Potential partners: All DG ECHO Partners
- e) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions<sup>8</sup>
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by<sup>9</sup>:
  - South Sudan: 21 January 2022
  - Sudan: 17 January 2022
  - Uganda: 28 February 2022

##### **Allocation round 2**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 30 000 000.
- b) Costs will be eligible<sup>10</sup> from 01/01/2022.
- c) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions related to this assessment round: same priorities as those identified in allocation round 1.
- d) Eligible partners: partners that have submitted proposals under allocation round 1.
- e) Information to be provided: N/A.
- f) Deadline for submission of proposals: N/A.

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<sup>6</sup> The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest. In case of amendments to existing agreements, the eligible date will however be the eligible date set in the initial agreement.

<sup>7</sup> Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

<sup>8</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>9</sup> The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

<sup>10</sup> The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest. In case of amendments to existing agreements, the eligible date will however be the eligible date set in the initial agreement.

### **Allocation round 3**

#### ***Part one: Uganda - refugee crisis***

- a) Indicative amount: EUR 2 000 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions related to this assessment round: response to the refugee influx in Uganda following instability in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/07/2022.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 6 months.
- e) Pre-identified partner: Internationally mandated agency for refugee assistance: UNHCR; DG ECHO-funded partners in Uganda currently delivering emergency assistance to refugees through well-established and extended pre-existing presence and operations in the affected areas.
- f) Information to be provided: Modification request of an on-going DG-ECHO funded operation.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 22/08/2022.

#### ***Part two: Uganda - food security crisis in Karamoja***

- a) Indicative amount: EUR 2 000 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions related to this assessment round: response to the food insecurity and malnutrition crisis in Karamoja.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/07/2022.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 6 months.
- e) Pre-identified partner: Internationally mandated agencies for food assistance and nutrition.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modification request of an on-going DG-ECHO funded operation.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 22/08/2022.

### **Allocation round 4**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 5 474 673
- b) Cost will be eligible<sup>11</sup> from 01/04/2022
- c) Potential partner: IFRC. The funding will be allocated to the pilot Programmatic Partnership action 'Accelerating local action in humanitarian and health crises' in

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<sup>11</sup> The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest. In case of amendments to existing agreements, the eligible date will however be the eligible date set in the initial agreement.

the following countries: South Sudan, Uganda

- d) Information to be provided: Single form<sup>12</sup>

### **Allocation round 5**

#### ***Part one: South Sudan***

- a) Indicative amount: EUR 6 000 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions related to this assessment round.  
The additional funding will support:
  - i. *Priority one:* An immediate scale-up of lifesaving emergency/rapid multi-sectoral assistance in IPC4+ areas including health, protection, WASH and nutrition supporting the food security outcomes
  - ii. *Priority two:* the WASH and S-NFI pipelines in the country.
- c) Eligible partners:
  - i. *Priority one:* DG ECHO currently funded partners that have an added value and scale-up capacity given their ongoing DG ECHO funded activities and immediate operational capacity in the above-mentioned priority sectors/areas.
  - ii. *Priority two:* IOM as internationally mandated agency already contracted for support to the WASH and S-NFI pipelines
- d) DG ECHO will prioritise actions proposing an immediate scale-up of the response within the initial duration of the action.
- e) Information to be provided: Modifications requests of on-going actions<sup>13</sup>
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: **20 October 2022.**

#### ***Part two: Sudan***

- a) Indicative amount: EUR 9 000 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions related to this assessment round:  
The additional funding will strengthen the response to populations affected by the critical food security situation through the delivery of emergency lifesaving basic services and protection assistance; and provide a multi-sectoral response to prevent and/or reduce excess mortality and morbidity.
- c) Eligible partners:  
DG ECHO currently funded partners that have an added value given their ongoing activities and immediate operational capacity in the above-mentioned priority sectors/areas, including UNHCR as the internationally mandated agency for the provision of international protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees.

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<sup>12</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>13</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

- d) Information to be provided: Modifications requests of ongoing actions<sup>14</sup>
- e) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: **20 October 2022.**

### **Allocation round 6**

- a) Indicative amount: EUR 10 000 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions related to this assessment round:
  - Priority 1:* immediate multi-sectoral emergency assistance and scale up of the protection, health, WASH, shelter and NFI response in the most affected states
  - Priority 2:* registration and documentation of refugees
- e) Eligible partners:
  - Priority 1:* DG ECHO Partners that, under HIP allocation round 5 (Part two: Sudan), have been placed in the reserve list and partners that have a proven rapid response capacity and are currently operational in delivering emergency assistance in the most affected states. Information to be provided: revised Single Form for partners in the reserve list; modifications requests of on-going actions.
  - Priority 2:* UNHCR as internationally mandated agency already contracted for support to the protection assistance, including the registration of refugees in Sudan.
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 12 December 2022.

## **4.1. Operational requirements:**

### **4.1.1. Assessment criteria:**

- 1) Relevance
  - How relevant is the proposed intervention and its compliance with the objectives of the HIP?
  - Has the joint needs assessment been used for the proposed intervention (if existing)?
  - Has the proposed intervention been coordinated with other relevant humanitarian actors?
- 2) Capacity and expertise
  - Does the partner, with its implementing partners, have sufficient expertise (country / region and / or technical)?
  - How good is the partner's local capacity / ability to develop local capacity?
- 3) Methodology and feasibility
  - Quality of the proposed response strategy, including intervention logic / logframe, output & outcome indicators, risks and challenges.
  - Feasibility, including security and access constraints.
  - Quality of the monitoring arrangements.

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<sup>14</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.  
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## 4) Coordination and relevant post-intervention elements

- Extent to which the proposed intervention is to be implemented in coordination with other humanitarian actors and actions (including, where relevant, the use of single interoperable registries of beneficiaries).
- Extent to which the proposed intervention contributes to resilience and sustainability.

## 5) Cost-effectiveness/efficiency/transparency

- Does the proposed intervention display an appropriate relationship between the resources to be employed, the activities to be undertaken and the objectives to be achieved?
- Is the breakdown of costs sufficiently documented/explained?<sup>15</sup>

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

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

#### ***4.1.2. Specific operational guidelines and operational assessment criteria:***

This section outlines the specific operational guidelines that DG ECHO partners need to take into account in the design of humanitarian operations supported by DG ECHO. It also lists and explains the assessment criteria – based on those outlined in section 4.1.1 - that DG ECHO will apply in the specific context of the HIP to which this Technical Annex relates when assessing proposals submitted in response to the related HIP.

For **Education in Emergencies**’ actions, priority will be given to funding projects that target at least 50% girls, unless there is a context-based justification for different targeting. All EiE actions should have a minimum duration of 24 months unless there is a needs- or context-based justification for a shorter duration.

For cash in education projects, attention should be paid to sustainability of interventions and, when possible, linkages to longer-term livelihood solutions.

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<sup>15</sup> In accordance with the relevant section of the Single Form guidelines (section 10)  
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The **HIP Policy Annex** should be consulted in parallel.

***Transfer modalities:***

Modality choice should be informed by a **needs-based and people-centred** response analysis, incorporating market, operational and environmental analyses. The use of cash should systematically be considered, across the variety of response mechanisms (anticipatory action, rapid response mechanisms, crisis modifiers, shock-responsive social protection) funded by DG ECHO. All cash interventions should comply with DG ECHO's cash thematic policy, including the sector-specific considerations in Annex 2 of that document. In addition, programmes above EUR 10 million should comply with the large-scale cash guidance note.

DG ECHO **prioritises multipurpose cash (MPC) transfers to meet basic needs**, complemented by other modalities, and timely referrals, to meet specific sectoral outcomes. The value and frequency of cash assistance should be sufficient to cover or contribute to recurrent basic needs or other sector-specific needs that are not recurrent basic needs and should be complemented by other relevant sectoral interventions. Cash assistance should be risk informed and targeted based on socio-economic vulnerability, and the protection concerns of individuals and groups.

DG ECHO promotes a **common programming approach** to reduce fragmentation, with streamlined systems created to avoid duplication and parallel ways of working. This includes common targeting criteria, single or interoperable beneficiary registries, a single payment mechanism, a common feedback mechanism and a common results framework. DG ECHO will systematically assess the cost-efficiency of cash programmes, using the Total Cost to Transfer Value (TCTR), alongside analysis of the effectiveness of the overall humanitarian response.

The sectoral and multisectoral outcomes of cash programmes should be monitored against internationally accepted norms in a consistent way. The monitoring of MPC interventions should comply with the cross-cutting and sector-specific Grand Bargain MPC outcome indicators. Markets should consistently be monitored to inform and adapt assistance, irrespective of the modality. In contexts of high inflation and currency depreciation, partners should put in place triggers to adapt cash assistance based on market monitoring data, and design programmes from the outset to anticipate potential inflationary shocks.

As 2022 will be the first year with basic **environmental** requirements in place, most of which are likely to be context specific, appropriate space should be dedicated to referencing these requirements.

***Strengthening Early Response Capacity:***

In addition to protracted crises, the Upper Nile Basin is characterised by recurrent human induced and natural crises, which may be rapid and/or slow onset. Besides the expected inherent adaptability of all humanitarian partners, DG ECHO will systematically promote and address preparedness for effective early response in all its activities as follows:

**On the Humanitarian Aid Budget Line:**

***(1) Emergency/Rapid Response Mechanisms (ERM/RRM) as standalone actions:***

Emergency/Rapid Response Mechanisms (ERMs/RRMs) are **stand-alone actions** pooling capacities of different partners for improved and more coordinated preparedness and early response, guided by early warning and contingency plans. ERMs/RRMs are designed to

provide initial lifesaving multipurpose assistance when other response mechanisms are not yet in place. ERM/RRMs are mostly used for rapid-onset crisis. For slow-on-set, objective indicators with thresholds for engagement / disengagement should be defined in coordination with other stakeholders including the State Authorities.

*(2) Flexibility embedded into the actions (Crisis Modifier):*

Whenever relevant, partners should **introduce flexibility** to mobilise resources from on-going actions and swiftly respond to any new emerging shocks occurring in the area of their operations (a crisis within a crisis). Flexibility measures can be triggered to provide initial lifesaving multipurpose response in the aftermath of a rapid onset crisis; the two main scenarios are: i) to fill the time gap while waiting for additional resources; ii) to respond to small scale humanitarian needs which would otherwise remain unattended.

The application of flexibility measures should be based on a multi-risk analysis and the development of worst and most likely scenarios. Partners should develop a detailed preparedness and response plan with clear thresholds and triggers to guide actions, considering prepositioning of stocks, surge staff, and sectors of intervention.

ERM/RRM and flexibility measures are complementary and do not exclude each-other; flexibility measures enable to bridge the time gap between the anticipation of a shock based on recognised early warning systems and the time needed to mobilise ad-hoc resources through the ERM/RRM or additional funding. Timeliness of response is a key element for effectiveness of both flexibility measures and ERM/RRM. Partners should adopt indicators to measure the timeframe required to deliver the first assistance (e.g. lifesaving response for xxx persons, and/or need assessment within xxx days from the displacement/disaster/alert/exceeded triggers).

When activating the Crisis Modifier (CM), partners shall inform DG ECHO Country Office. If the funds of the CM are not used, the partner shall propose to DG ECHO how to reallocate the resources, in the interim report or not later than one month before the end of the action.

*On the Disaster Preparedness Budget Line:*

In addition to E/RRMs and flexibility measures noted above, DG ECHO supports **targeted Disaster Preparedness actions** under the Disaster Preparedness Budget Line (DPBL). For the 2022 HIP, this will **apply to Sudan and Uganda**.

Additional information can be found in the specific Country paragraphs below.

All Disaster Preparedness actions should incorporate an **overall protection approach** in the foreseen response to disasters.

***Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus:***

Wherever feasible, and **without compromising humanitarian principles** and immediate humanitarian service delivery, partners should apply a “Nexus lens” throughout the project cycle, and to all intervention sectors, with a view to strengthening resilience, promoting access to quality and sustainable services, addressing the root causes of humanitarian crises and developing shock-responsive safety nets for crisis-affected populations. Partners are expected to explore possibilities to engage with national systems at different levels, especially related to basic social services (health/nutrition, WASH, education), social protection and direct cash transfers to households, as a way of strengthening existing systems in crisis-settings. Specifically, DG ECHO sees cash assistance as an entry point for the nexus and where possible expects humanitarian cash programmes to contribute to building shock-responsive social protection systems. Partners are expected to share good

practice examples of humanitarian interventions for advocacy/ dialogue at national level, to trigger further long-term investments by development actors, aiming at global SDG commitments.

In the context of protracted forced displacements, DG ECHO may consider providing initial seed funding with the objective of mobilising longer-term funding from development actors (governments or donors). This in particular through the design of a context-specific analytical framework on durable solutions composed of the three dimensions of safety for forced displaced persons (physical, material and legal safety) defined by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, whatever their displacement trajectory (return, relocation, local integration). Such initial analysis exercise needs to be done as part of a multi-stakeholder initiative in a given area (area-based analysis), aimed at mapping and identifying the needs related to the provision of services for the populations, and based on this, defining advocacy strategies/ plans. Based on this initial analysis exercise, Actions aimed at piloting models for durable solution initiatives in the field can be eligible for DG ECHO funding if they are part of a Nexus perspective, i.e. aimed at sharing responsibilities with development actors for crises-affected population.

Throughout the process, full respect for humanitarian principles and international guidelines is crucial. Any action related to returns shall be funded by DG ECHO only if returns are proven to be voluntary, safe and secure, dignified, informed and sustainable (as notably laid out in DG ECHO Thematic Policy on Humanitarian Protection and DG ECHO Returns Guidance Note).

#### ***Climate change adaptation and environmental considerations:***

Adapting responses to future climate change as well as reducing environmental degradation are highly relevant in partners' interventions. Such actions also contribute to the European Commission's overall implementation of the European Green Deal<sup>16</sup>.

All partners must take all necessary measures to reduce the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid and ensure that their work does not contribute to the further deterioration of the environment, or the health and well-being of the people living in the target area. Partners should take measures such as choosing materials with a lower carbon footprint, using clean energy solutions, avoiding deforestation, implementing robust waste management systems, greening the organisation's logistics or supply chain, or working more closely with local actors to decrease intercontinental transport.

#### ***Remote management***

As relevant, partners must pay particular attention to “*DG ECHO approach to remote management*”<sup>17</sup>, in terms of its requirements for independent assessment, staff qualifications and experience, monitoring capacity, respect of humanitarian principles, security management, and the life-saving imperative. Partners must maintain efforts to increase acceptance by communities and parties to the conflict through their conduct, demonstrated neutrality and impartiality and not least quality of projects and services.

#### ***Visibility and Communication:***

Partners will be expected to ensure full compliance with visibility requirements and to acknowledge the funding role of DG ECHO, as set out in the applicable contractual arrangements. The DG ECHO Visibility Guidelines are available at: <https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/visibility>. The guidelines also explain the three main Visibility &

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<sup>16</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/ngo/actions-implementation/remote-management>

Communication options available to partners when submitting project proposals, and the possible budgets.

***Protection:***

Considering the existing conflict dynamics in the Upper Nile Basin region, coupled with recurrent natural shocks/disasters and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, all proposed interventions should be informed by a thorough **gender-informed risk analysis**. The risk analysis is paramount to develop programming that can address threats, vulnerabilities and capacities of affected populations, hence reducing their exposure to protection risks (i.e. interventions with a protection outcome). The gender-informed risk analysis is crucial for all programming, not just protection programming, to ensure a conflict sensitive approach. Partners are expected to prioritise the establishment of quality, comprehensive and safe **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)** response services since the onset of emergencies, ensuring that survivors' wishes, safety and dignity remain at the centre of the Action.

Moreover, taking into account the strong correlation between natural disasters, epidemics and conflict, **integrated actions** are strongly encouraged where possible and where partners can demonstrate added value of integrated responses.

The **regional dimension** of specific crisis (e.g. South Sudan refugee crisis or the Tigray refugee crisis) should be taken into account when designing protection responses. Considering recent developments, focus on monitoring of push/pull factors; post returns monitoring and border monitoring can be supported.

**Mainstreaming basic 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, participation and empowerment of affected communities throughout the action. DG ECHO strongly encourages partners to include a specific indicator at objective-level aimed at measuring the four protection mainstreaming principles: percentage of beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex, age and disability) reporting that humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable and participatory manner. DG ECHO has produced and shared guidance on the measurement of the indicator. The actions must include a complaints & follow-up mechanism accessible to beneficiaries possibly enhancing an effective referral system at multi-sectoral level, to allow for adjustments of projects so that the quality of aid can meet the expectations of beneficiaries.

**Coordination and advocacy** remain key within the protection sector. DG ECHO encourages partners to develop advocacy plans for any advocacy efforts to ensure coherence and enhanced measurement of outcomes.

Actions aimed at preventing protection violations should be designed envisaging the strong **involvement of the affected communities** from the design phase and should aim at reaching concrete outcomes within the implementation timeframe.

**4.1.2.1. Country-specific Priorities and Modalities**

**a) South Sudan:**

As mentioned in the HIP, in South Sudan, the EU humanitarian priorities will be:

1. Contributing to the **reduction of excess mortality and morbidity** in the country, addressing in particular acute malnutrition, severe food insecurity, mother and child health, and epidemics.

2. Providing **humanitarian protection assistance** to communities affected by violence in the country.
3. Static and mobile **Education in Emergencies** interventions, focusing on reaching newly displaced and out-of-school boys and girls with relevant primary formal or non-formal education, including accelerated and catch-up programmes.
4. Addressing **critical humanitarian needs** through emergency lifesaving activities in particular in the case of **new shocks** (conflict-related displacement, epidemic outbreaks, and/or natural disasters / climate shocks).
5. Supporting the humanitarian community's activities in **coordination, logistics, safety and security, context analysis, data collection, monitoring and conflict sensitivity**.

Given the unpredictable evolution of the security situation in South Sudan, DG ECHO will support actions - in all sectors - to respond to **new crises** wherever critical humanitarian needs have been identified.

Responses should be based on **established high levels of humanitarian need(s) and priority gaps**, identified through localised assessment, multi-sector severity mapping (HRP), independent assessments and IPC analysis. Solid operational and security management capacity is required by all partners (static or mobile such as E/RRMs).

Collective/pooled efforts and or consortia, which address specific contextual and response challenges and support improved synergies, efficiency, effectiveness and quality could be considered.

All actions, regardless of geographic location or target population, must be **needs-based rather than status-based**. The 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) severity mapping should be supplemented by context-specific assessments for static actions, while E/RRMs and crisis modifiers need to provide assessments of likely threats and responses. This approach also applies to potential support in areas characterised by spontaneous movements of IDPs or returnees.

The following sectors have been identified for potential longer projects (up to 24 months for initial submission): Health (Surveillance), Coordination and/or Security.

In addition to the strategic highlights outlined in the HIP, the following sector-specific priorities should be considered:

***Protection:***

DG ECHO will prioritise actions aimed at directly providing **static and/or mobile protection assistance**; for the latter, protection assistance should be provided as part of a multi-sectoral response (whether implemented by an individual or multiple agencies). Direct response and delivery of protection services to **SGBV survivors and children** at risk will be favoured and should be based on community engagement. Support to specific child protection activities will be considered if the partner can demonstrate specific technical capacities in this field and is able to specifically address risks to children within the project. Additionally, **child protection activities can be integrated in Education programs**, and intra-sector referral pathways will be strongly encouraged.

Actions focusing on population data systems (e.g. tracking new displacements or cross-border movements) must prove to be in line with Protection Information Management (PIM) Principles, including promote the broadest collaboration and coordination of data and information internally between humanitarian actors and externally, with and among other

stakeholders.

Whenever possible, protection monitoring should be coupled with a response component (either direct response or through external referral, based on sound and up-to-date referral mechanisms). Material assistance, including cash, will only be considered for funding when part of a broader protection response (e.g. case management) and only when the causal link between assistance and intended protection outcomes are clearly conceptualised at proposal stage. Standalone protection monitoring aimed at identifying protection risks for populations of concern could also be considered for funding, where relevant and only if coupled with direct response modalities and referrals in the same areas.

Activities aimed at raising awareness among communities must be based on a thorough local/area-based context analysis of evolving protection risks and must be harmonised (e.g. at cluster level). Priority will be given to critical information, such as access to services, but can also include **Housing, Land and Property** related information, when proven relevant and if enhancing other types of information provision.

### ***Food Assistance and Livelihoods:***

Unconditional food assistance will prioritise households with most severe acute food security needs, e.g. IPC 4+ areas, and should also be considered under E/RRMs. The response design should ensure impact on food security outcomes, and therefore ration coverage and regularity need to be adequately designed (in terms of size and frequency) especially in IPC4+ areas.

Actions aiming at strengthening coordination and harmonisation within a variety of actors to improve quality, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency of actions and presence of partners.

Whenever feasible, cash-based responses or mixed responses should be considered, based on a solid feasibility, market and risk assessment.

Area-based prioritisation will apply and Blanket Food Distribution could be considered specifically in the IPC 4+ areas, when access is not possible due to conflict, and/or when household-level targeting cannot be implemented. Risk and protection analyses should be included as part of the design response, to inform places of distribution, modalities, regularity, delivery mechanisms, etc.

Vulnerability-needs based targeting mechanisms for food assistance should be reinforced and contextualised, identifying a minimum core set of food security indicators, such as FCS and CSI, ensuring a verification mechanism. Monitoring of the processes and impact of the responses should be strengthened with presence in the field, more regularity and better use of the findings.

Small-scale emergency livelihoods support actions Resources that enable people to protect and rebuild their livelihood assets (such seeds & tools, fisheries, livestock, business grant etc.) to be supported, providing links to other longer-term responses.

### ***Nutrition:***

Nutrition programming will be prioritised where emergency needs are demonstrated and in contexts with significant risk of deterioration (i.e. arrival of newly displaced populations, high levels of food insecurity) and/ or where support to existing capacities is absent or insufficient.

As a no-regrets approach and acknowledging that the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) standard protocol does not ensure satisfactory program coverage in contexts with a limited network of health structures and frequent population movements, the use of a simplified/combined protocol or other approach proven to increase efficiency and coverage is strongly encouraged.

Integration of health and nutrition services is paramount to the success of nutrition programming; in the absence of health services within a reasonable range, nutrition programs will only be supported if inclusive of a minimum health package for the target community (referral inclusion minimum requirement).

### ***Health:***

Lifesaving health interventions will be implemented through static and mobile interventions that will support the primary and secondary healthcare system, including referrals, in areas hosting IDPs and newly acute displacements, as well as areas with crisis related critical gaps. Health services should be compliant with the Basic Health and Nutrition Essential Services by Ministry of Health strengthening the integration of health and nutrition programming.

Health actions should have a strong focus on epidemic preparedness/surveillance and response to epidemic outbreaks.

### ***Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):***

WASH interventions will mainly be conducted as emergency response following the activation of an E/RRM trigger or a crisis modifier and should focus on emergency supply of water rather than on setting up new infrastructure.

Post emergency response can be envisaged in formal or informal IDPs site/settlement/camp (incl. POC) where there is an averred and documented high public health risk (e.g: cholera outbreak).

Cholera-related WASH response should not be envisaged through an E/RRM modality.

In case of epidemic outbreaks or other public health risks, complementary sanitation interventions should be implemented. Hygiene-related messages should be shared during kit distributions and in case of epidemic outbreaks.

### ***Shelter & Settlement (S&S):***

S&S interventions will mainly be conducted as emergency response following the activation of e.g. an E/RRM trigger or a crisis modifier.

### ***Education in Emergencies:***

The EiE programme will be implemented through both static and mobile interventions and will focus on reaching newly displaced and out-of-school boys and girls with relevant primary formal or non-formal education, including accelerated and catch-up programmes.

Static EiE interventions should prioritise access, enrolment and retention which contribute to quality education and improved learning outcomes. Proposed EiE activities should include an analysis and response to the barriers faced by vulnerable children in accessing and succeeding in their education. Partners need to ensure appropriate methods and tools are used to assess, evaluate and validate learning outcomes. To enable EiE interventions to respond rapidly to changes in the context (such as potential new COVID-19 related school closure, and the need to trigger distance learning modalities where feasible), a crisis modifier

can be embedded in the Action.

Mobile EiE interventions should be implemented in areas affected by new shocks with high influx of displaced children and in areas where education has been interrupted. These interventions should aim at restoring access to education within 3 months after disruption of education services. The proposed actions should be flexible, based on the likely different types of scenarios, and possibilities for handover/exit.

Integrated EiE and child protection actions are strongly encouraged: school-based protection activities must be built upon a sound risk analysis and should address the most life-threatening protection risks.

***Emergency Preparedness / Rapid Response Mechanism:***

In the fluid context of South Sudan, strengthening Emergency Preparedness is a clear priority through an Emergency/Rapid Response Mechanism (E/RRM) for joint/coordinated, timely and effective multi-sectoral lifesaving response. Strengthening early response capacity through the inclusion of flexibility tools such as crisis modifiers within static projects will also be prioritised.

***E/RRMs:***

DG ECHO will continue to support E/RRMs with organisational set-ups allowing a needs-based multi-sectoral response rather than programming the response based on fixed pre-defined sectors. Contributions from other sources (co-funding, country pipelines, own stocks) should be quantified. An indicator estimating the value of goods mobilised from core pipelines, as well as activities related to mobilisation of the core pipeline, is recommended.

Protection analysis should be part of the multi-sectoral assessment (rather through pooling of resources i.e. joint MSA). An indicator quantifying the percentage of E/RRM deployments that are informed by a protection analysis is recommended.

E/RRMs should contribute to the responsiveness and effectiveness of the wider humanitarian system. E/RRM partners should continue their collaboration with existing coordination mechanisms while seeking to improve the speed of the emergency response to populations affected by a new shock. Complementarity in terms of geographic coverage and sectors of intervention with other existing rapid response mechanisms is of paramount importance.

In addition, DG ECHO encourages E/RRM partners to pool resources for a more coherent, efficient, harmonised and integrated approach – including joint advocacy on crisis and/or humanitarian architecture, joint communication (press release, factsheet, reports...), joint fundraising, joint multi-sectoral assessments, shared technical expertise, joint contingency and multi-sectoral response plans with harmonised triggers, rules of engagement/scenarios, and common logistics (storage, transport/charters, etc.).

***Crisis Modifier:***

DG ECHO encourages its partners in South Sudan to include a Crisis Modifier (CM) into their humanitarian response actions where relevant (see section on *Strengthening early response capacity* above).

**b) Sudan:**

As mentioned in the HIP, under its 2022 strategy for Sudan, DG ECHO will build on the previous years' strategy and focus on the following priorities:



1. Addressing critical humanitarian needs through the delivery of **emergency lifesaving basic services and protection** assistance to populations displaced or otherwise affected by conflict, natural disasters or climate shocks, or epidemics outbreaks, including through Rapid Response Mechanisms.
2. Providing an appropriate response to health, nutrition and food security crises to **prevent and/or reduce excess mortality and morbidity**, while also reinforcing the humanitarian-development nexus.
3. Providing safe access to quality formal and non-formal primary **education** of children and responding to children's protection needs in schools, including psychosocial needs, as well as supporting their resilience amidst a crisis.
4. Strengthen national / sub-national state level **disaster preparedness** systems by working on the development of specific competencies, coordination and a systematic early response mechanism that can meet urgent needs in flood crises.
5. **Supporting coordination, logistics, safety and security**, context analysis and conflict sensitivity.

DG ECHO will **prioritise populations affected by conflict and natural disasters** as well as their host communities, including resident populations in IPC 3+ areas.

DG ECHO will **prioritise new crises** where critical humanitarian needs have been identified. Sustainable approaches and exit strategies need to be integrated in such actions at proposal stage. Therefore, partners should proactively engage with all other resilience, recovery and development actors and programs, present in the area of intervention, including with agencies providing Housing, Land and Properties (HLP)-related assistance.

Contribution to durable solutions (returns, relocation, local integration) for protracted displacement situations will be analysed on a case-by-case basis and can be considered only if proven to be safe, informed, dignified, voluntary and sustainable. Considering the increased humanitarian needs, other sources of funding should however be the main contribution.

Strong participation in the relevant clusters and share important gaps, findings, capacity, funding streams and challenges are paramount to ensure effective complementarities and contribute to improved coordination.

The following sectors have been identified for potential longer projects (up to 24 months for initial submission): rapid response mechanism set-up/strengthening, health (including wash in health), nutrition (including wash in nutrition).

In addition to the strategic highlights outlined in the HIP, the following sector-specific priorities should be considered:

***Protection:***

In light of the deteriorating humanitarian crisis situation in Sudan and the lack of systematic and regular collection, verification and analysis of information aimed at identifying violations of rights and protection risks, DG ECHO could support independent protection monitoring activities, including on cross border movements, as well as providing direct protection assistance to people in need with a particular focus on victims of violence, including SGBV. Information resulting from protection monitoring should be used to inform timely and principled response, including through advocacy, in line with ethical standards.

**Safety considerations** for both humanitarian staff and communities must be ensured at all times. The heightened protection risks deriving from the deepening economic crisis and the actual health crisis should also inform the design of protection actions, with a **specific focus on inter-communal tensions and SGBV**.

Specifically, for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, actions focusing on adequate reception, registration and documentation of new arrivals, including the timely identification of vulnerabilities, will be considered.

#### ***Food Assistance:***

Assistance should be prioritised to **areas and households with higher vulnerability to food insecurity**, due to the combined impact of displacement, loss of livelihoods, economic crisis, and lack of access to basic services.

Actions should ensure adequate frequency of food assistance and adequate coverage of the ration to ensure impact. Risk analysis should be an integral part of the response design. Food assistance actions should be shock-adaptive and nutrition-sensitive with specific attention to children in the age group of 6 to 24 months and PLW. Food assistance modalities should take into account efficiency considerations as well as feasibility.

Flexible mechanisms should be considered, and inflation should be factored in. Specific attention should be paid to ensuring adequate coordination with the Family Support Program as well as linkages with resilience-building initiatives, as the 2020 and 2021 food security crisis has weakened the overall resilience and coping mechanisms of many households.

Improved and well-coordinated Food Security information collection and analysis should be part of the responses. Partners should take into account seasonality when relevant for the response design and avoid duplication.

Whenever relevant and feasible, **unconditional cash transfers will be the preferred modality** for addressing basic food needs, and rations or cash amounts should be in line with recommendations from coordination structures.

#### ***Nutrition:***

Reinforcing capacity for the implementation of the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with undernutrition in the most affected areas will be prioritised and has now been strongly put forward as the government's preferred strategy during the COVID-19 pandemic. All **nutrition activities should be integrated in the overall health sector response** to allow to have a one-stop service at health centre level addressing the full package of health services.

The multiple and structural causes of malnutrition call for prioritising an integrated well-coordinated multi-sectoral approach and scaling-up engagement with development actors. This engagement and collaboration need to be highlighted and developed in the proposal.

Increased coverage of treatment, quality of medical care, and follow up in the Stabilisation Centres are a priority for nutrition programming in Sudan. Hence, in addition to the provision of technical reinforcement of capacity and logistic support for the management of undernutrition, partners are encouraged to develop and share adapted strategies for the following components of the nutrition in health programmes: provision of safe water, adequate maintained sanitation and IPC measures, uninterrupted access to quality drugs,

functional referral systems to and from in-patient centres, and active community outreach and mobilisation.

***Water Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH):***

For new IDPs sites, floods, and more generally, for response to new emerging crisis, WASH interventions will mainly focus on Emergency Response.

Support to existing sites that have recently hosted displaced populations and whose number is likely to disrupt the existing WASH services can be considered (e.g. West-Darfur).

Post emergency response can also be envisaged in previously non-accessible areas where communities have hosted displaced populations whose number is likely to disrupt the existing WASH services of the communities.

An **extreme attention** (monitoring and early warning system) **shall be paid to the water resource in water scarce areas hosting IDPs and refugees** (e.g. in Northern Darfur).

Linking interventions up with development actors is crucial as well for this sector.

***Shelter & Settlements (S&S):***

S&S prioritisation follows the same logic as the one reported above for the WASH Sector.

***Education in Emergencies:***

DG ECHO's will prioritise actions that **focus on primary education** of children through providing safe access to quality formal and non-formal education services and by responding to children's protection needs in schools, including psychosocial needs, as well as supporting their resilience amidst a crisis. Child protection should be part of the intervention. Actions will target out-of-school boys and girls, including adolescents as well as those at risk of dropping out.

Considering the continued closure of schools, partners are required to be capable to adapt to the situation and to submit two plans. Plan A: if the situation resumes to "normality" and school can re-open. Plan B: if schools remain closed and/or have to close again during the school year for any reason (covid, floods, IDP.s...).

Support to school feeding programs as part of a comprehensive package for EiE will only be considered under certain circumstances when needs are clearly justified and the risk of drop out or protection concerns are too significant.

Priority will be given to actions that are innovative, multi-sectorial, conflict-sensitive, promote social cohesion and have strong community participation.

***Early Response:***

***E/RRM:***

DG ECHO encourages partners to come up with **flexible response modalities** that will allow for timely response to new emergencies. E/RRMs Actions should allow for a needs-based multi-sectoral response rather than programming the response based on fixed pre-defined sectors.

E/RRMs should be designed to contribute to the responsiveness and effectiveness of the wider humanitarian system. E/RRM partners should continue their collaboration with existing coordination mechanisms while seeking to improve the speed of the emergency response to populations affected by a new shock. Partners should demonstrate their capacity to undertake protection analysis as part of the multi-sectoral assessment (either individually

and/or through pooling of resources).

In addition, DG ECHO encourages E/RRM partners to pool resources for a more coherent, efficient and harmonised approach – e.g. joint multi-sectoral assessments, shared technical expertise, joint contingency and response plans with harmonised triggers, rules of engagement/scenarios, and common logistics (storage, transport/charters, etc).

#### *Crisis Modifier:*

DG ECHO encourages its partners in Sudan to include a Crisis Modifier (CM) into their humanitarian response actions where relevant (see section on *Strengthening early response capacity* above).

#### **Disaster Preparedness:**

DG ECHO will work with its partners in supporting local first-line response actors with the objective to contribute to the Sudan National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2016-2030, including the support to communities. The main priorities will be:

- Risk Assessment and Mapping: Scientific assessments of flood risk (i.e. hazard, exposure and vulnerability), including maps, to be made publicly available for areas most heavily impacted by the recent floods. This should also include the prevalent disaster types in Sudan, such as droughts, and, where possible, consider the changing nature of these disaster risks due to human activities (e.g. urbanisation) or climate change.
- Early Warning Systems allowing the authorities and communities at risk to detect hazards at an early stage and to take the necessary precautionary measures to prepare for and mitigate potential disaster impacts.
- Development of Emergency Preparedness and Contingency Plans for disaster prone regions and organisation of training and simulation exercises to ensure their proper implementation in the event of a disaster.
- Building up local capacities (community members, organisations, and local authorities) to predict, better prepare, understand and take action/ respond to future emergencies including through small-scale community-based infrastructure works as lined out in the different CPs.

#### **c) Uganda**

As mentioned in the HIP, considering DG ECHO's budget, mandate and comparative advantage in Uganda, its priorities in 2022 will be three-fold:

1. Providing **life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable refugees and their host communities**. Universal access to quality basic services delivery and the provision of household-level assistance to refugees and host communities will be supported on a **multi-sectoral basis, adopting a people-centred approach**, addressing in particular protection, health (including epidemics preparedness), localised peaks of undernutrition (supporting the commodities' pipeline, support detection and treatment of cases), EiE (reinforcing the education system and addressing multiple access barriers, including those created by COVID-19), WASH (addressing new acute gaps while ensuring sustainability of past investments), shelter and multi-purpose cash, including food assistance.
2. Strengthening local **Disaster Preparedness to address the multiplicity of crises** including epidemics, new refugee influxes and natural hazards by ensuring effective

linkages between early warning and early action. DG ECHO will **build on the results achieved in the past three years**, continuing to support District Contingency Planning in highly vulnerable/exposed Districts, reinforcing local first responders' capacities, pooling Districts' tools and pre-positioned resources and supporting forecast-based financing interventions to improve rapidity and efficiency of anticipatory action and/or emergency responses.

3. Continuing to the **operationalisation of the humanitarian, development and peace nexus**, as adapting the EU Nexus Action Plan to the new MFF priorities and aligned to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework.

DG ECHO will support projects in the following geographical areas:

- Areas receiving **new influxes** of refugees and asylum seekers. In the past two years, the focus was mainly on the **South-West** (refugees from the DRC). In 2021, this focus was reviewed to take into account the current vulnerability of South Sudanese refugees in **West Nile** and the increasing risk of influx from South Sudan. This approach will be continued in 2022.
- **Settlements** where DG ECHO's previous investment in setting up services requires **additional short-term support** for effective transition to development programmes or the Authorities.
- Areas exposed to **recurrent, multiple and high-risk hazards and epidemics**. For the epidemics, attention will be paid to districts at high risk of Ebola Virus Disease and COVID-19 contamination reflecting the priorities of the National Task Force.

DG ECHO strategy in Uganda promotes a holistic people-centred approach, contributing to the roll-out of the Basic Needs Approach (BNA)<sup>18</sup> in the country. This aims at the provision of a comprehensive package of multi-sectoral assistance and services to each beneficiary. The provision of multi-sectoral assistance at household and community levels is encouraged through coordination among different actions (i.e. coherent targeting between actions), rather than within a single action. Sector-specific actions should contribute to improving the overall response in that sector and demonstrate linkages to other sector-specific responses. Clear robust referral pathways between the different supported actions is critical. Such referral pathways should be established at the initial stages of implementation. The multi-sectoral outcomes of the BNA are expected to be monitored.

### ***Coordination:***

Partners must ensure compliance in reporting ECHO funding against the Refugee Response Plan (RRP). Partners are requested to enrol in and actively promote the usage of the inter-agency Feedback Referral and Resolution Mechanisms (FRRM) managed by UNHCR. Strategic coordination platforms / initiatives can be supported but only when robust policy influence capacities can be demonstrated and well-documented.

### ***Protection:***

DG ECHO will prioritise actions that contribute to maintaining a safe and protective asylum space: ensuring reception conditions, addressing epidemics risks, notably COVID-19 and

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<sup>18</sup> UNHCR WFP Joint Principles for Targeting Assistance to Meet Food and Other Basic Needs to Persons of Concern <https://www.unhcr.org/5ef9ba0d4.pdf>  
UNHCR Basic Needs Approach in the Refugee Response:  
<https://www.unhcr.org/protection/operations/590aefc77/basic-needs-approach-refugee-response.html>

EVD, resuming registration and documentation capacities, ensuring legal protection to refugees and asylum seekers as well as assistance to victims of violence, including mental health and psychosocial support.

Protection assistance to **victims of violence** should focus on the **timely identification** of cases and related **provision of quality assistance**. The maintenance and update of beneficiary databases elaborated under the Individual Profile Exercise, including demographic and qualitative indicators' data allowing robust early identification of needs but also more tailored targeting according to clearly defined vulnerability criteria will be supported. Provision of information related to availability and access to services (rights) will only be considered if based on sound and contextual dissemination strategies to maximise impact.

Interventions aimed at preventing/mitigating protection risks will only be supported if 1) tangible outcomes can be achieved and measured within the timeframe of the action, and 2) multi-faceted vulnerabilities faced by refugees and asylum seekers are integrated in the analysis and response. This could include protection-related negative coping mechanisms deriving from food insecurity.

Behavioural change strategies will only be supported if linked to a multi-year development programme.

***Food assistance and other basic needs through multipurpose cash:***

DG ECHO will continue supporting the coverage of the food needs of the refugees, but only on the basis of a targeting mechanism based on the Vulnerability Essential Needs Assessment and the Individual Profiling Exercise (see above). Responses must ensure to significantly improve the capacity of beneficiary households to cover their basic needs (food and non-food ones), providing transfer values informed by the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), in line with Cash Working Group recommendations, tailoring the assistance provided according to the level of vulnerability, through the provision of unconditional and unrestricted cash grants.

Targeting should be based on a multi-dimensional analysis of economic vulnerability, access to services and protection-related factors in alignment with the decisions of the Assessment Technical Working Group (ATWG)<sup>19</sup>.

Building a common cash delivery platform considering beneficiaries' preferences is a priority to improve cost efficiency and accountability in cash delivery. Scale-up of contactless assistance modalities will be prioritized, such as mobile money and agency banking, building on the lessons learned of the COVID-19 sensitive programming.

***Health:***

DG ECHO will continue to support the Primary Healthcare system and reinforce the epidemic response, complementing Disaster Preparedness interventions (epidemic surveillance/preparedness). Lessons learned from the COVID-19 response are expected to feed the proposed response, especially as regards increased mobilization of and reliance on community workers.

Support to service delivery should be compliant with the basic health services package as described in the Health sector integrated refugee response plan of the Ministry of Health<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> <https://ugandarefugees.org/en/working-group/201?sv=0&geo=220>

<sup>20</sup> <https://health.go.ug/sites/default/files/Final%20HSIRRP%2031%20Jan%202019%20MASTER.pdf>

(including treatment of undernutrition, Mental health and Psychosocial Support), and include a strong focus on epidemics preparedness.

### ***Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):***

#### ***Operational Rationale***

Emergency response must be coherent with the multi-hazard approach and only cover areas with acute gaps mainly generated by newly affected population (new refugees, natural hazard affected populations).

Post emergency responses should target refugees or IDPs needs and be coherent with the ongoing local and national development plan. Interventions targeting IDPs or refugees while complementing and/or extending ongoing development program will be privileged.

#### ***Cash Modality***

For household level assistance, cash should be considered as the privileged modality wherever local suppliers have the capacity to provide the required level of service. Interventions must ensure sound capacities to monitor effective and safe access to WASH services, adequately reporting upon.

### ***Shelter & Settlements (S&S):***

S&S Interventions will be **limited to emergency response** in case of unforeseen newly affected population or when informed by robust protection-related needs, requiring punctual urgent shelter interventions. They must be coherent with the multi-hazard approach.

### ***Education in Emergencies:***

Supported interventions must soundly contribute to enhance safe, continued and inclusive access to quality formal and non-formal primary and secondary education, for refugees and host communities' out-of-school children, notably those overaged and/or at risk of dropping out. Given the massive impact that the prolonged and still ongoing closure of schools, interventions must prioritise enabling a safe reopening of schools, in compliance with the Ministry of Education and Sports SOPs, while ensuring that learners are able to attend school daily, as main contribution to avoid permanent drop-out from education while preventing children continue facing major child protection associated risks. Actions should include:

1. Reinforcement of COVID-19 surveillance, preventive, and case-management capacities in schools, informed by clear school-based SOPs.
2. Increasing “vaccinations for teachers” messaging, drives and other methods of sound scale-up of vaccinations for these crucial collective.
3. Significant reduction of the pupil: classroom ratios, by the adoption at scale of the Double-Shifting Model ensuring the official validation of guidelines, the increase of the number of safe learning spaces (including temporary infrastructure) and the recruitment and training of additional teachers.
4. Adoption of adequate “catch-up” learning modalities ensuring proper orientation of teachers, avoiding any confusion with accelerated education and remedial programs.

In locations where despite the adoption of the strategy mentioned above a safe reopening of schools cannot be guaranteed for any reason, distance learning modalities can be supported, but only as last resort.

Once schools will reopen, the additional components described below can be supported:

1. The expansion of the Accelerated Education Programs (AEP)<sup>21</sup> equivalent to primary and secondary education.
2. Enabling girls' enrolment and retention by addressing Menstrual Health Management-related issues and other gender-related barriers.
3. Addressing financial barriers to education through the provision of cash-for-education grants.
4. Addressing language and other adaptation barriers through transitional learning (bridging programmes).
5. Supporting the transition from the non-formal education system to the formal, and from primary to secondary education.

The integration of **crisis modifiers** to immediately and temporarily adopt distance learning modalities in case of epidemics outbreaks detected inside any of the targeted schools or to provide immediate emergency assistance in case of any other emergency caused by natural hazards or new refugee influxes is strongly encouraged.

Integration of child protection – based on specific protection risks – is essential, including the provision of psychosocial support to learners and teachers.

All interventions must be in alignment with the Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities led by the Ministry of Education and Sports<sup>22</sup>:

***Targeted Disaster Preparedness (DP):***

Building on previous experiences, supported efforts shall continue to contribute enhancing local first emergency responders' capacities at national, district and local levels, including decentralised Governmental institutions and the Civil Society, in coordination with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). **Districts exposed to multiple hazards**, including the reception or settlement of refugees, **will be privileged**.

Interventions should adopt a comprehensive **multi-hazard approach**, considering natural hazards such as floods, landslides and drought, sudden refugee influxes overwhelming existing reception capacities and epidemics, reinforcing the linkages between Early Warning and Early Action and strengthening national epidemics surveillance systems.

The following components shall be supported. Actions integrating all of them will be privileged:

- 1- Contingency planning at National and District levels. At National level, support will be provided to enhance overall coordination and the development of a National Contingency Plan, which will support a National Response Capacity. At District level, prioritisation of targeted areas shall be informed by the National Risk and Vulnerability Atlas combined with a robust analysis of stakeholders and existing capacities to identify most urgent gaps.
- 2- Reinforcing local first responders' capacities. This component shall include: Support to

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<sup>21</sup> When it comes to NFE programmes, partners are strongly encouraged to use the definitions, tools and guidance developed by the AEWG (Accelerated Education Working Group):

<sup>22</sup> <https://inee.org/collections/accelerated-education>  
[https://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/sites/planipolis/files/ressources/uganda\\_education-response-plan-for-refugees-and-host-communities-in-uganda.pdf](https://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/sites/planipolis/files/ressources/uganda_education-response-plan-for-refugees-and-host-communities-in-uganda.pdf)



enhanced coordination and information management at National and District levels; Reinforcement of the decentralised pre-positioning and replenishment of Regional Contingency Stocks, prioritising areas not yet assisted; Enhanced cash preparedness among local stakeholders; Integration of forecast-based finance component for anticipatory action informed by enhanced early warning systems, considering different type of hazards; Enhanced shelter conditions for displaced; Integration of concrete assets and livelihoods' protection activities prioritising communities at risk; and Reinforcement of local first responders' capacities in protection, including accountability towards affected populations.

- 3- Advocacy: Actions aiming to consolidate the efforts towards the approval and operationalisation of the National Disaster Risk Management bill will be specially considered only if embedded into large-scale multi-stakeholders' initiatives.
- 4- Focus on epidemics: Supporting epidemics preparedness and integrating it into multi hazard plans. Reinforcing the community-based epidemics surveillance and referral.