

## TECHNICAL ANNEX

### LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

#### 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

Operational Unit in charge

DG ECHO<sup>1</sup>/D4

Contact persons at HQ:

**Team Leader LAC**– Anne-Françoise  
Moffroid  
[Anne-Francoise.Moffroid@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Anne-Francoise.Moffroid@ec.europa.eu)

**South America** – Julián Rueda  
[Julian.Rueda@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Julian.Rueda@ec.europa.eu)

**Central America** – Sandrina Agape  
[Sandrina.Agape@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Sandrina.Agape@ec.europa.eu)

**Haiti and Caribbean** – Alberto  
Garralon  
[Alberto.Garralon-Perez@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Alberto.Garralon-Perez@ec.europa.eu)

Contact persons in the field:

**Colombia** – Thomas Dehermann  
[Thomas.Dehermann-Roy@echofield.eu](mailto:Thomas.Dehermann-Roy@echofield.eu)

**Venezuela** – Pablo Torrealba  
[Pablo.Torrealba@echofield.eu](mailto:Pablo.Torrealba@echofield.eu)

**Caribbean** – Daniela D’Urso  
[Daniela.Durso@echofield.eu](mailto:Daniela.Durso@echofield.eu)

**Haiti** – Urko Dubois  
[Urko.Dubois@echofield.eu](mailto:Urko.Dubois@echofield.eu)

**Central America** – Liesbeth Schockaert  
[Liesbeth.Schockaert@echofield.eu](mailto:Liesbeth.Schockaert@echofield.eu)

**South America** – Alvaro de Vicente  
[Alvaro.De-Vicente@echofield.eu](mailto:Alvaro.De-Vicente@echofield.eu)

---

<sup>1</sup> Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)

## 2. FINANCIAL INFO

Indicative Allocation<sup>2</sup>: **EUR 146 146 210** of which an indicative amount of EUR 11 500 000 for Education in Emergencies (EiE).

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 13 986 210** 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.

Country/ Region	Action (a)	Action (b)	Action (c)	Actions (d) to (h)	TOTAL
	Human-induced crises and natural disasters	Initial emergency response/ small -scale/ epidemics	Disaster Preparedness	Transport / Complementary activities	
Venezuela	66 000 000	0	1 000 000	0	67 000 000
Colombia	13 200 000	0	1 500 000	0	14 700 000
Central America	23 414 930	0	4 500 000	0	27 914 930
Haiti	11 000 000	0	2 000 000	0	13 000 000
Caribbean	500 000	0	4 500 000	0	5 000 000
South America	12 140 372	0	4 500 000	0	16 640 372
Regional flexibility reserve*	1 100 000				1 100 000
Regional Coordination and Visibility*	790 908				790 908
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>128 146 210</b>		<b>18 000 000</b>		<b>146 146 210</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> The Commission reserves the right not to award all or part of the funds made or to be made available under the HIP to which this Annex relates, or to allocate part of the funding to interventions with a regional or multi-country approach.

### **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 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>3</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.

#### 4. ADMINISTRATIVE INFO

##### **Allocation round 1 - Venezuela**

a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 25 000 000:

- Support to interventions addressing the humanitarian consequences of complex crises in Venezuela and in the region (up to EUR 21 000 000);
- Education in Emergencies (up to EUR 3 000 000);
- Up to EUR 1 000 000 for Disaster Preparedness.

b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.

---

<sup>3</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.

- c) Costs will be eligible from 1 January 2022<sup>4</sup>.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multiannual 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). 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.
- e) Potential partners<sup>5</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form<sup>6</sup>.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 8 February 2022.

### **Allocation round 2 - Colombia**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 11 500 000:
  - Support to interventions addressing the humanitarian consequences of human-induced crises in Colombia and in the region (up to EUR 9 000 000);
  - Education in Emergencies (up to EUR 1 000 000);
  - Disaster Preparedness/resilience interventions (up to EUR 1 500 000).
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1. of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1 January 2022<sup>7</sup>.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multiannual 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

---

<sup>4</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>5</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>6</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>7</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.

appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 3 above). 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.

- e) Potential partners<sup>8</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form<sup>9</sup>.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 8 February 2022<sup>10</sup>.

### **Allocation round 3 – Central America**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 11 960 000<sup>11</sup>:
  - Support to interventions addressing the humanitarian consequences of OSV, regional migration and forced displacement, and food insecurity: up to EUR 4 460 000;
  - Education in Emergencies: up to EUR 3 000 000;
  - Disaster Preparedness/resilience interventions: up to EUR 4 500 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1 January 2022<sup>12</sup>.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multiannual 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). 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.
- e) Potential partners<sup>13</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form<sup>14</sup>.

---

<sup>8</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>9</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>10</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>11</sup> **This amount includes EUR 960 000 contributed by the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the European Commission aiming to reinforce emergency response in Central America. This is reflected in Modification 1 of the 2022 HIP for LAC**

<sup>12</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>13</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 8 February 2022<sup>15</sup>.

#### **Allocation round 4 – Haiti**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 8 000 000:
- Support to interventions addressing the humanitarian consequences of the crisis in Haiti: up to EUR 6 000 000;
  - Disaster Preparedness/resilience interventions: up to EUR 2 000 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1. of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1 January 2022<sup>16</sup>.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multiannual 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). 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.
- e) Potential partners<sup>17</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form<sup>18</sup>.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 8 February 2022<sup>19</sup>.

#### **Allocation round 5 – Caribbean**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 5 000 000:
- Education in Emergencies: up to EUR 500 000;
  - Disaster Preparedness/resilience interventions: up to EUR 4 500 000.

---

<sup>14</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>15</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>16</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>17</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>18</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>19</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.

- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1. of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1 January 2022<sup>20</sup>.
- h) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multiannual 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). 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<sup>21</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners.
- e) Information to be provided: Single Form<sup>22</sup>.
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 8 February 2022<sup>23</sup>.

### **Allocation round 6 – South America**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 14 000 000:
  - Support to humanitarian operations in South America: up to EUR 5 500 000;
  - Education in Emergencies: up to EUR 4 000 000;
  - Disaster Preparedness/resilience interventions: up to EUR 4 500 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1 January 2022<sup>24</sup>.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend

---

<sup>20</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>21</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>22</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>23</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>24</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.



ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multiannual 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). 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.

- e) Potential partners<sup>25</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form<sup>26</sup>.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 8 February 2022<sup>27</sup>.

### **Allocation round 7 – Central America – Darien Gap**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 1 500 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to section 0 of the HIP.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1 February 2022<sup>28</sup>.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multiannual 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). 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.
- e) Potential partners<sup>29</sup>: DG ECHO Partners having submitted proposals under assessment round 3 of this HIP pre-selected as a priority and not yet funded.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form<sup>30</sup>.

---

<sup>25</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>26</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>27</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>28</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>29</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>30</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: Proposals received in the framework of the assessment round 3 of this HIP (8 February 2022).

### **Allocation round 8 – Haiti**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 5 000 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to section 0 of the HIP.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1 February 2022<sup>31</sup>.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multiannual 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). Education in Emergencies actions should have an initial duration of at least 24 months, unless there is a need - or context-based justification for a shorter duration.
- e) Potential partners<sup>32</sup>: DG ECHO Partners having submitted proposals under assessment round 4 of this HIP pre-selected as a priority and not yet funded.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form<sup>33</sup>.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: Proposals received in the framework of the assessment round 4 of this HIP (8 February 2022).

### **Allocation round 9 – Venezuelan crisis**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 12 000 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: (1) support to multi-sector interventions that do not have food assistance as a main sector, addressing the humanitarian consequences of complex crises in Venezuela and in the region, and (2) contribution to the Venezuela Humanitarian Fund (VHF) (or please refer to section 0 of the HIP).
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1 January 2022<sup>34</sup>.

---

<sup>31</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>32</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>33</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>34</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

- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multiannual 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). 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.
- e) Potential partners<sup>35</sup>: DG ECHO Partners having submitted proposals under assessment round 1 of this HIP and already funded (ongoing actions), except for the contribution to the Venezuela Humanitarian Fund and/or pre-selected as priority B.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form<sup>36</sup>.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: Proposals received in the framework of the assessment round 1 of this HIP (8 February 2022). For the VHF: 22/08/2022.

#### **Allocation round 10 – IFRC PP**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 13 986 210
- b) Cost will be eligible from 01/04/2022<sup>37</sup>
- c) Potential partner: IFRC. The funding will be allocated to the pilot Programmatic Partnership action ‘Accelerating local action in humanitarian and health crises’ in the following countries: GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR, ECUADOR, PANAMA
- d) Information to be provided: Single form<sup>36</sup>

#### **Allocation round 11 – Food insecurity in Venezuelan crisis and Central America**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 35 000 000.
  - a. Venezuela crisis: up to EUR 30 000 000
  - b. Central America: EUR 5 000 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: (1) support to food assistance and nutrition interventions, and multi-sector interventions that include food and/or nutrition assistance, along with associated

---

amendments to existing agreements, the eligible date will however be the eligible date set in the initial agreement.

<sup>35</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>36</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>37</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.

sectors such as health, protection and WASH, addressing the humanitarian consequences of complex crises in Venezuela and in the region, and (2) support to food assistance and nutrition interventions, and multi-sector actions that include food, and/or nutrition assistance in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua (or please refer to section 0 of the HIP).

- c) Costs will be eligible from 1 January 2022<sup>38</sup>.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multiannual 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).
- e) Potential partners<sup>39</sup>: **(1) Venezuela crisis:** DG ECHO partners having submitted proposals under assessment round 1 of this HIP and already funded (ongoing actions), and/or pre-selected as priority B, following a re-evaluation of their initial proposed actions in line with the selection criteria for the current allocation round; **(2) Central America:** ACH/MDM, OXFAM, WFP and UNICEF are identified as the best potential partners in the framework of this assessment round.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form<sup>40</sup>.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: **(1) Venezuela crisis:** proposals received in the framework of the assessment round 1 of this HIP (8 February 2022). **(2) Central America:** 24/10/2022.

### **Allocation round 12 – Complex crisis in Colombia**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 3 200 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: provision of multi-sectoral assistance to the most vulnerable in order to (1) address the humanitarian consequences of internal conflict dynamics and violence (unmet needs of newly displaced populations and host communities), with focus on protection (in particular with a focus on indigenous and afro-Colombian communities) and access to basic services, including health, protection, education, emergency water, sanitation and hygiene, and non-food items; (2) strengthen disaster preparedness capacities in prioritized areas with high exposure to both conflict and natural hazards (based on multi-risk response).

---

<sup>38</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>39</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>40</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

- c) Costs will be eligible from 1 January 2022<sup>41</sup>.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multiannual 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).
- e) Potential partners<sup>42</sup>: UNDP, Entreculturas and NRC are identified as the best potential partners in the framework of this assessment round.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form<sup>43</sup>.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 27/12/2022.

#### **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.
- 4) Coordination and relevant post-intervention elements

---

<sup>41</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>42</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>43</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

- 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 employed, the activities to be undertaken and the objectives to be achieved?
- Is the breakdown of costs sufficiently documented/explained?<sup>44</sup>

In case of ongoing actions in the field, where DG ECHO is requested to fund the continuation thereof, a field visit may be conducted by a 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).

With regard to information management and evidence, DG ECHO partners are strongly encouraged to ensure and enhance principled, systematised, and collaborative processes to collect, process, analyse, store, share, and use disaggregated data and information to enable evidence-informed actions for quality outcomes.

DG ECHO partners remain fully accountable for their actions, even when they subcontract activities. In such cases, it is essential that DG ECHO partners ensure that all activities involving the transfer of resources and responsibilities are properly and closely followed up through robust monitoring and control mechanisms, and that particular attention is paid to the respect of humanitarian principles by local implementing partners and private contractors.

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

This section outlines the specific operational guidelines that partners need to take into account in the design of humanitarian operations supported by DG ECHO. It also lists and explains the assessment criteria – based on those outlined in section 3.2.1 - that DG ECHO will apply in the specific context of the HIP to which this Technical Annex relates when assessing proposals submitted in response to the related HIP. This section only includes the specific elements for each country and is not exhaustive either in terms of guidance or in terms of priority sectors. The HIP and the HIP Policy Annex should be consulted in parallel.

---

<sup>44</sup> In accordance with the relevant section of the Single Form guidelines (section10)

As general requirement, mainstreaming of protection, gender, age and disability inclusion based on a comprehensive disaggregated risk analysis, will be a pre-condition for selection. This includes considering strategies to prevent risks of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and appropriate measures ensuring inclusion of people with disabilities in proposed actions. Proposals will be evaluated based on whether the response is based on a comprehensive risk analysis and sufficiently reflect all mainstreaming requirements.

DG ECHO partners are expected to consistently apply a holistic and inclusive risk-informed approach to inform all humanitarian interventions: actions must be based on a comprehensive evidence-based, context specific and gender–age sensitive all-risk analysis that looks at specific threats and hazards that populations are facing or are likely to face, avoiding generalisations. An all-risk-informed approach must integrate a disaggregated analysis accounting for detailed pre-existing, current and forecastable threats/hazards, vulnerabilities, capacities, enablers, and barriers for different population groups. This should be done to ensure that the interventions are effectively responding to their specific needs and strengthening their resilience.

### **Humanitarian protection**

The focus will be on responding to urgent and critical unmet protection needs of the most vulnerable populations. Results-based and integrated approaches for protection outcomes, based on comprehensive evidence and differentiated all-risks analysis, will be prioritised. The response will need to mitigate threats, decrease vulnerabilities, and enhance existing capacities, as well as to reinforce responsive and remedial actions for identified protection risks. The prevention and response to violence remains a priority, in particular holistic case management for gender-based violence survivors and victims of human rights violations. The inclusion of mental health and psychosocial support components is expected, also in rapid response mechanisms through psychological first aid activities. Comprehensive protection pathways and referral systems based on data protection protocols should be reinforced, in tight coordination with other sectoral actors. Legal assistance will be prioritised for the most vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants. Interventions are expected to support children associated with armed forces and armed groups or at risk of forced recruitment, and victims of grave violations. Assistance to separated/unaccompanied minors and the strengthening of tracing and family reunification activities are also a priority. Protection advocacy will be supported to strengthen the protection of civilians, the compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Human Rights Law and Refugee Law, as well as the promotion of humanitarian access to affected populations. Protection coordination and collaborative information management solutions will be pursued, to articulate efforts, build evidence and raise awareness. Complementarity and articulation between partners' protection actions is encouraged in order to provide integral analysis and comprehensive responses to victims. The active integration of specific and targeted protection in disaster preparedness actions is recommended to ensure a comprehensive all-risk approach through protection preparedness systems, anticipatory measures and early actions, and to enhance resilience and self-protection mechanisms.

### **Education in Emergencies**

Priority will be given to projects targeting at least 50% girls, unless there is a context-based justification for different targeting.

Actions will mainly focus on hard-to-reach areas, forcibly displaced and on the move children, and out-of-school children. Particular attention is necessary to ensure coherence and enrolment or retention, at the extent possible, of children in the formal system to ensure and reinforce actions' sustainability. Education sectoral action requires to be embedded in a longer-term strategy to ensure coverage for at least 24 months to ensure relevant follow-up and monitoring, as well as in a wider coordinated response, which addresses all relevant education needs and supports local ownership. Child-centred integrated approaches are encouraged to respond holistically to identified needs. Child protection component, with a minimum package for the identification of children's needs, psycho-social support and case referrals, is therefore a priority to ensure normalcy and socio-emotional development of children. For displaced and returned over-age students and schoolchildren who are out of the system since long time, tailored accelerated and catch-up classes remain pertinent, while ensuring inclusive access and methodologies to different target groups. In 2021, distance learning and innovative non-formal education initiatives have emerged and there have been advances on the search for more adaptive and adapted solutions. The capitalisation and upscaling of these initiatives and the piloting of new ones are also considered relevant, whenever based on solid evidence. There is necessity, however, to work on ensuring solid transition options from non-formal to formal education. In line with the Safe Schools Declaration (SSD), the DP actions could include the operational links with EiE with DP actions, where the school contingency planning and capacity building are also a tool to reinforce anticipatory actions and introduce environmental awareness and greening initiatives.

### **Cash based interventions**

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 funded by DG ECHO.

Within the Basic Needs Approach to address people's basic goods, utilities, services or resources, DG ECHO prioritises a single multipurpose cash (MPC) payment to meet basic needs, complemented by other modalities, and timely referrals, to meet specific sectoral outcomes. The Transfer Value should be defined based on an estimation of the gap between the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and beneficiaries' resources and sufficient to cover or contribute to recurrent basic needs plus other specific needs that are not recurrent. 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 all partners 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, using the Total Cost to Transfer Ratio (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 and 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.

All cash interventions should comply with DG ECHO cash thematic policy, including the sector-specific considerations in Annex 2 of that document. In addition, programmes above 10 million EUR should comply with the large-scale cash guidance note.

Attention should be paid to sustainability of the interventions and, when possible, linkages to longer-term livelihood solutions. Protection-related expenditures must be included within an MEB and synergies with the Cash WGs, wherever established, should be reinforced. Potential protection outcomes should be systematically monitored and the design of MPC adapted on the basis of contextual findings. When cash is specifically designed to meet specific Protection sectoral outcomes, it should never be provided as standalone intervention and it should always be part of a comprehensive case management process and approach. When cash is provided to meet specific protection needs, the value, frequency and duration should be defined and justified accordingly in relation to the specific protection outcome intended.

### **Disaster Preparedness**

The focus will be on regional and national multi-hazard preparedness for response and early action, while exploring synergies with European Union Civil Protection (EUCPM) and nexus opportunities with development and Team Europe's instruments. The overall aim of DP actions in the region is to create better-prepared communities and institutions to face natural and manmade hazards and risks, including diseases outbreaks as COVID-19, thus reducing mortality and protecting the livelihoods of the most vulnerable.

The strategy and vision are to uphold the interrelations between DP, emergency and resilience actions with grass root communities, civil society organisations as well as local and national authorities. At institutional level, Civil and Military coordination and a Civil Protection approach to State response will be promoted, including through increased technical support from the EUCPM. Priority will be given to empowering the most exposed communities with highest risk indicators and lowest coping capacities. Preparedness for response and early action will be pursued through 1) Risk and forecast-based and anticipatory actions such as Rapid Response Mechanisms, emergency logistics preparedness, social protection shock responsiveness, and Crisis Modifiers to allow shifting to "emergency-type" interventions if needed. 2) Preparedness in conflict and fragile settings, implying the integration of victims of conflict in national preparedness and response protocols as well as displacement patterns, inclusiveness and protection issues. 3) Climate and environmental resilience as outbreak preparedness, innovation and green technology for effective response. 4) Urban preparedness to multiple hazards and resilience in larger cities.

To generate changes and achieve long lasting results, critical gaps must be addressed simultaneously; from influencing policies and legal frameworks to supporting

communities' resilience and reducing the impact of hazards, to improving response capacities. Risk and forecast-based and anticipatory actions, preparedness in conflict and fragile settings remain critical priorities. Similarly, improved coordination, including civil-military, evidence generation and information management, south – south cooperation and regional coordination could greatly contribute to more efficient and timely adjustment and responses to disasters.

DG ECHO contributes to the dissemination and implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Wherever possible, DG ECHO will focus on gaps identified from recent disasters, unaddressed risk, allowing to further progress on an ECHO-INTPA joint regional DRM strategy. Actions should link with EU funding where possible, as well as with global campaigns such as Resilient Cities, Safe Schools Initiative and Comprehensive Safe Hospital Framework. The integration of the private sector (including through public-private partnerships) and civil society-led initiatives in DP will be promoted.

### **Strengthening early response capacities**

#### **(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. ERMs/RRMs are mostly used for rapid on-set 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**

Whenever relevant, partners should introduce flexibility to mobilize 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 plan considering prepositioning of stocks, surge staff, triggers 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 shock and the time needed to mobilize ad-hoc resources through the ERM/RRM or additional funding. 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).]

### **Nexus: Humanitarian – Development (Peace)**

DG ECHO strives to achieve more coherent and complementary planning, programming and financing, through increased cooperation and coordination between humanitarian,

development and peace actors. A shared analysis of risks, needs, vulnerabilities, dynamics and cross-shared information on field realities is the basis of DG ECHO's programming and is systematically developed and updated. In order to achieve the most effective use of resources, DG INTPA and DG ECHO multiply their efforts to promote rationalisation and operational coordination, within our own institutions and with other donors and partners. DG ECHO will ensure that Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) policies work together while protecting our mandate, principles and perception.

### **Environmental Requirements**

As an overarching principle, negative impacts on the environment should be avoided, and where this is not possible, mitigating measures to reduce the potential negative environmental impact should be implemented, applying a precautionary approach. The commitment to reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid will guide DG ECHO's own actions and cooperation with partners. Environmental impacts should be addressed at both the organisational and project-level.

### **Impact of COVID-19**

All actions must be adapted to the evolution and the impact of COVID-19 in-country. While continuing lifesaving services, partners are requested to ensure the safety and protection of their staff and beneficiaries through COVID-19 sensitive programming. Partners shall take measures to reduce the risks of spreading the pandemic through gathering of crowds during the delivery of assistance.

### **Specific requirements per crisis**

#### **Venezuela crisis**

##### *In-country operations*

**Target population:** Most vulnerable groups will be prioritised, notably children under 5, pregnant and lactating women, adolescents affected by multiple risks, IDPs and those “left behind”, including elderly, people with disabilities, people affected by violence (in urban or rural areas), particularly indigenous communities.

**Sector prioritisation:** DG ECHO-funded interventions will prioritise health, nutrition, education in emergencies, protection and shelter, with coordination as transversal sector and WASH and Food Security as support sectors of intervention. Multisectoral or integrated actions looking at responding in a comprehensive way will be welcome.

*Nutrition:* monitoring and response to acute malnutrition in children under five, pregnant and lactating women and elders as well as adolescents as a part of a comprehensive response. Additional food support to their families can be included if this ensures better success of the nutritional programme. Nutritional support to people on the move (internally displaced or willing to migrate) can also be envisaged.

*Health:* priority will be given to the provision of access to quality health care services (including preventive and curative activities and primary consultations) as well as supporting the emergency services of local structures. Given the context, it is important to integrate health and protection services, with the provision of qualitative sexual and reproductive mental health, as well as to include WASH services if needed. When

possible, interventions should support efforts to retain essential health staff. Supporting emergency life-saving services should not include COVID-19 patients as they are already prioritized by the authorities.

*Education in Emergencies:* schools have been identified as strategic community places to support children and their families through the provision of quality education, safe and protective environments, socio-emotional learning and psychosocial support, and improved access to other sectoral services (particularly food assistance and WASH). Therefore, partners should develop an integrated response, also including specific programmes aimed at increasing school enrolment and retention, and reducing school desertion by children, young people, teachers and education personnel.

*Protection:* given the context complexity and the existing risks of violence exacerbated by the effects of COVID-19, protection of vulnerable people affected by the multiple crises remains a priority, especially for children and elderly left behind, as well as populations on the move. DG ECHO will prioritise actions focusing on the provision of appropriate and comprehensive services and psychosocial support to the most vulnerable and at-risk people. Restoring and maintaining family links, and responding to exacerbated gender-based violence, human trafficking, exploitation, and violence in border areas are among the main priorities. Reinforcement of shared Protection Information Management systems and capacity building of partners and stakeholders will be considered. Partners should improve rapid response capacities in case of new sudden emergencies.

*Shelter:* As internal displacement and willingness of vulnerable people to migrate continues, providing safe and dignified shelter is essential. Identifying and monitoring the most common routes and trends should be included. Dissemination of this information to the humanitarian community will be supported.

*Coordination* of the humanitarian response continues to be of paramount importance to avoid duplication, avert any form of politicization of humanitarian aid and secure the humanitarian space. Actions should look at strengthening the existing cluster and coordination networks, both in Caracas and in the different regions. Strengthening information management systems is also a priority. This should be supported by the inclusion and strengthening of local organisations to better integrate all response efforts through principled actions, thus facilitating the standardisation of responses in all sectors.

*Water, Sanitation and Hygiene* activities as well as *Food security* activities, if planned, should be complementary and integrated to Nutrition, Health, Education in Emergencies, Shelter or Protection interventions, to provide comprehensive support.

*Disaster Preparedness:* The DP strategy seeks to mainstream preparedness and a risk-informed approach in response operations and promotes targeted preparedness actions as a specific way of strengthening local and national capacities. This includes the generation of evidence-based humanitarian data and information, development of early warning systems, contingency plans, awareness towards human-induced and protection related disasters and coordination mechanisms involving all actors.

**Geographical coverage:** DG ECHO recommends prioritizing border States with Colombia, Brazil, Aruba and Trinidad & Tobago (Zulia, Táchira, Apure, Amazonas, Bolívar, Falcón, Sucre and Delta Amacuro). Priority will be given to the hardest-to-reach

populated areas when possible (Amazonas, Delta Amacuro). Large urban settlements, such as Caracas, Maracaibo, Valencia, and Barquisimeto are also of interest.

**Horizontal issues:** All operations should include a component to reinforce and expand the operational capacities of local civil society partners, notably in terms of technical expertise and equipment necessary for the operations. All efforts on greening the operations and reducing the carbon print will also be considered an important asset.

Each action should preferably focus on only one or two sectors to be able to provide comprehensive and qualitative sectoral response, with activities responding to immediate needs and risks, and facilitating early recovery when possible. Partners should in all cases work to restore local markets and local provision of assistance, taking all necessary do-no-harm and precautionary measures to avert the risk of fuelling illegal activities and groups. Disaster preparedness should be mainstreamed in all actions, based on a comprehensive disaggregated risk analysis. The introduction of Crisis Modifiers is recommended.

In order to preserve access to population, the safety of aid workers, and the respect of the humanitarian principles, visibility and communication standards can be subject to special derogations in Venezuela. Partners will assess whether it is pertinent to communicate on their activities or share other information, always with the view of protecting the beneficiaries and the intervention space for all humanitarian stakeholders in the country. In case of changes in context, derogations may be lifted, and, in such case, partners will be informed. DG ECHO could also agree on a case-by-case basis, to increase communication and visibility inside the country.

To take account of the administrative and logistics constraints faced by humanitarian organisations in Venezuela, DG ECHO has prepared a guidance note concerning the application of flexibility measures to operations in Venezuela, including specific derogations applicable to all partners inside the country. In this framework, Single Forms must include a thorough disaggregated risk analysis together with the mitigation measures envisaged to avoid the risk of resource diversion and to guarantee an impartial and timely aid delivery to the final beneficiaries.

### *Regional migration and refugee crisis response*

The volume of needs generated by the Venezuelan migration crisis and the limited resources available make it necessary to focus the response on the immediate risks of the most vulnerable and affected populations. Operations should be based on sound all-risk analysis of multiple crises affecting Venezuelan forcibly displaced populations, based on primary disaggregated data, strong prioritisation and clear vulnerability criteria.

**Target population:** People in transit, more specifically *caminantes*<sup>45</sup> with limited or no resources, identified as extremely vulnerable, are the primary target of DG ECHO-funded assistance. People living in recent informal settlements in close vicinity of urban centres are also of concern. DG ECHO will favour actions targeting new arrivals and populations affected by multiple crises.

---

<sup>45</sup> *Caminantes* (“walkers”) refers to migrants and refugees in transit without means to afford any kind of transport to host countries.

Very vulnerable groups, among which indigenous people, unaccompanied and separated children, GBV and trafficking survivors, LGBTIQ+, elderly and people with disabilities require specific disaggregated risk analysis and tailored response. Actions in support of vulnerable host communities are also to be considered.

**Geographical coverage:** Border areas require specific attention due to the influx of people in transit and higher vulnerability. These areas, usually underdeveloped across the region, are the first ones to receive arrivals of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. In addition, the main routes followed by *caminantes* as well as urban and peri-urban settings hosting the most vulnerable forcibly displaced populations can be considered.

Multi-country or regional interventions should demonstrate a sound strategy, showing the added value, coherence and connection between the actions across the different target countries. DG ECHO promotes a joint strategy for operations in Venezuela and neighbouring countries, mainly in cases of border areas and circular migration.

**Sector prioritisation:** Assistance must be integral and adapted to the specific risks and needs identified for the most vulnerable cases identified. Nevertheless, special attention must be paid to the priority sectors defined by DG ECHO.

*Protection:* Comprehensive case management, legal assistance and access to documentation are considered a priority. Actions facilitating access to qualitative services, providing psychosocial support, as well as implementing active referrals and accompaniment to the most vulnerable people will be strongly supported. The complementarity with specific coordinated information dissemination strategies on rights and services, which should be properly monitored and followed by implementing partners in its impact, is encouraged. Evidence-based advocacy will be supported to ensure sectoral protection standards, as well as efforts to enhance access to asylum and international protection procedures. The reinforcement of protection monitoring and collaborative Protection Information Management systems and capacity building of all partners and stakeholders are encouraged.

*Health* is a priority due to the scale of needs and the funding deficit in this sector. DG ECHO will support health operations in line with DG ECHO policy and operational recommendations, which includes primary, maternal-infant and sexual-reproductive as well as mental health. COVID-19 interventions may be supported if they are integrated into a comprehensive health response. Depending on the availability and on existing local capacities, actions can be implemented directly or through referrals and support to local health institutions and facilities, but always with direct involvement of DG ECHO partners. Health interventions that facilitate the inclusion in the public or subsidized health schemes will be prioritized.

Other sectors, notably shelter, food security or multipurpose cash transfers should be covered under a specific and strategic targeting integrated with protection. In this sense, it is crucial that shock-responsive social protection systems synergistically encompass both social assistance (mainly cash transfers) and social care implemented at regional, national and local level. Otherwise, given that people in transit is the main group to be targeted, it becomes essential to guarantee shelter services along the routes to ensure protection and in certain cases to facilitate the concentration and coordination of services for people on the move.

*Cash-based interventions* can be the best way for reducing protection risks through the provision of humanitarian transport, shelter, health expenses, etc.

*Education in Emergencies:* The implementation of flexible education models and formal education strategies in very close coordination with national authorities stands as crucial to ensure children's access to and retention in schools. The response should include enhanced hosting capacities of education systems or temporary learning spaces for the increased number of students, provision of education supplies, support to accreditation and transition from non-formal to formal systems, support to education personnel and authorities to enhance socio-emotional development and psychosocial support to most vulnerable children. An integrated approach with Child Protection remains imperative to strengthen the capacities of education personnel and authorities to appropriately address the risks of most vulnerable children; to promote quality and safe education environments; and to mitigate risk of dropouts and children's further exposure to exploitation, abuse and violence.

*Water, sanitation and hygiene* will not be considered systematically but tailored to the specific sanitary context at the moment of implementation, and to the specific needs of the target population.

*Livelihood support:* DG ECHO-funded actions will focus on the immediate and most pressing needs of the affected population. Actions related to livelihood should demonstrate rapid impact on urgent needs highlighted by beneficiaries. Stand-alone long-term livelihood interventions will not be supported as such, however DG ECHO promotes the link of humanitarian assistance with long-term programmes focused on socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants.

**Horizontal issues:** DG ECHO may support coordination at local, country and regional level. In this respect, partners are encouraged to coordinate their actions through the mechanisms created for that purpose.

DG ECHO welcomes the creation of integral assistance centres centralizing services for people on the move to facilitate the integral delivery of assistance as well as the articulation among humanitarian partners and public services providers.

In the context of evidence-based programming and advocacy, DG ECHO will pay specific attention to any initiative aiming at producing comprehensive disaggregated information management and analysis.

The increase of xenophobia and discrimination in host countries makes crucial to mainstream social cohesion community actions.

Actions should contribute to the implementation of the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) defined by the Regional Platform R4V. DG ECHO partners are requested to coordinate their actions with the relevant coordination mechanisms established at local, national and regional level.

DG ECHO partners should systematically adopt a displacement lens in their humanitarian action, in order to integrate displacement more effectively into risk management, including preparedness. DG ECHO Disaster Preparedness actions in countries hosting people on the move, Venezuelan refugees and migrants should adopt a systemic approach to strengthen capacities to integrate and respond to population displacements in a context of cumulative hazards and risks.

## **Colombia**

The interventions supported by DG ECHO in response to the consequences of internal armed conflicts and violence in Colombia will primarily focus on attending urgent unmet needs of victims directly and recently affected. They will aim at ensuring targeted humanitarian assistance and comprehensive protection for conflict- victims in situations of extreme vulnerability through evidence-based programming, including information management and coordination.

**Target population:** Individuals and communities affected by recent forced displacement, confinement or other severe restrictions to mobility and access to basic services. Specific attention will be given to victims of multiple hazards and threats and to different vulnerable population groups, based on comprehensive disaggregated risk analysis and thorough targeted needs assessments. People living in parts of Colombia with high COVID-19 incidence and in conflict-affected areas, including migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, should be targeted.

**Geographical coverage:** Target areas should be those most affected by armed conflicts with the direst humanitarian consequences on the population. DG ECHO is particularly keen to support actions that mitigate the effect of the armed conflicts, especially in remote rural areas of Colombia affected by multiple crises, with special attention to ethnic minorities, as well as neighbourhoods in urban areas affected by influxes of displaced populations.

**Sector prioritisation:**

*Protection:* Considering that human safety, integrity and dignity are at high risk in conflict-affected areas, protection is the overarching sector of intervention. All actions supported by DG ECHO must aim at improving the protection of the beneficiaries, through either stand-alone or integrated actions.

Proposals must include a comprehensive and context-specific disaggregated risk analysis based on primary disaggregated data, describing clearly the protection threats, vulnerabilities and existing capacities of the different target groups to cope with armed violence and multiple risks. Actions will aim at reducing the risks and directly providing a holistic response to victims of violence, abuse, exploitation and people at risk. Examples of specific protection activities that DG ECHO could support include case management, legal assistance and facilitation of access to civil documentation for forcibly displaced people, appropriate response to UASC and GBV survivors, psychosocial support, mine risk education, promotion of IHL, protection monitoring, evidence-based advocacy, and the implementation of coordinated protection early alert and identification systems.

*Education in Emergencies* is a DG ECHO priority and should be linked to child protection programming. Whilst the provision of school supplies and the improvement of infrastructure is important, an integrated approach is imperative to strengthen teachers' and families' capacities and promote students' socio-emotional development. Partners should ensure outreach and advocacy to mitigate risks related to xenophobia and discrimination. The challenge posed by mixed flows is significant, and exacerbates the pressure on the education system, already fragile in conflict-affected areas.

*Health:* The structural shortfall and weakening of health services, exacerbated throughout 2020 and 2021 by COVID-19 (especially in areas affected by the conflict) and the pressure exerted by the migration flows in the existing capacities, makes this sector a priority. Clear entry points should be defined for health interventions. The decision to intervene in a crisis should be taken based on mortality and morbidity data (including mental health), the



current level of access to care, health and nutritional indicators, local capacity and willingness to act, and support provided by other actors. During the planning phase, partners must conduct an assessment and identify the gaps in health services justifying the need for a humanitarian intervention. As a rule, COVID-19 activities should be integrated into comprehensive health responses.

Direct involvement of DG ECHO partners in the provision of health care is mandatory. The support provided should be channelled primarily through existing official structures, in order to strengthen them to ensure quality of care, and/or in substitution when services are not available. In any case, the role of the partner cannot be limited to administrative and financial follow-up or technical supervision. Quality of care and medical services must meet international standards (Sphere or other). Quality of services in referral structures must also be assessed and ensured by partners prior the start of the project.

Health interventions will systematically include appropriate care for victims of sexual violence. The provision of post-rape kits shall be ensured for the duration of the action. Awareness raising is crucial to guarantee that information on the availability and confidentiality of services is widely disseminated. GBV is not exclusively a sector for women and girls: prevention measures must involve as many men and boys as possible. Medical and psychosocial support must be provided by qualified staff and in accordance with internationally recognised protocols and when possible linking the response with the protection-oriented interventions.

Partners must ensure continuity of care from primary to secondary health by supporting case referral systems. The quality of services in reference structures must also be assessed and ensured by the partner. Adapted strategies (mobile or community-based) for the provision of quality care to populations without access to health care can only be considered if there is no health facility available and the visits can be sufficiently frequent and spread over time to ensure an impact.

*Nutrition* intervention criteria are established based on the emergency thresholds for global acute malnutrition (in excess of 15%, or of 10% where there are aggravating factors). It is also possible to start operations to tackle acute malnutrition if there is a high probability that these levels will be exceeded in the short term.

When possible, the monitoring and the management of severe acute malnutrition will be integrated into the primary health care of health facilities supported by partners, with a special attention to children under five, pregnant and lactating women, elders, people with disabilities as well as adolescents as a part of a comprehensive response.

*Food Assistance:* Food assistance, through the most appropriate transfer modality, must respond to specific needs identified through primary data collection. Food Security Assessment should be systematically conducted and/or Food Consumption Score should be used as a key indicator. Coordination with other actors must be ensured.

*Livelihood resilience and capacity building:* interventions funded by DG ECHO will focus on lifesaving activities in the context of the armed conflict. Therefore, actions related to livelihoods, resilience, capacity building or early recovery must demonstrate a rapid impact on identified urgent needs or be addressed through other funding mechanism.

*WASH and shelter:* Interventions in these sectors can be funded under rapid response mechanisms or with a clear link with protection, not as stand-alone activities.

*Information management:* In order to facilitate evidence-based programming and advocacy, specific attention will be paid to any initiative aiming at producing comprehensive information management and analysis, illustrating the real dimension of the Colombian conflict crisis. DG ECHO is interested in streamlined information management for analysis and will consider financing dedicated information management and coordination staff. Looking at capacity building of existing local information management networks in collaboration with national entities will be favoured.

**Horizontal issues:** Partners should attempt to formulate innovative and flexible responses to humanitarian emergencies caused by the Colombian armed conflicts and other multiple hazards and threats or foster previously implemented activities that proved particularly successful with specific added value and impact. Colombia is characterised by recurrent waves of medium to small size displacements, often affecting the same communities or municipalities. In this context, Disaster Preparedness mainstreaming remains of paramount importance for actions funded by DG ECHO as cross-cutting theme, based on a comprehensive risk analysis. Partners are furthermore encouraged to consider two models for strengthened response capacity:

- a) Emergency / Rapid Response Mechanisms (RRM) as stand-alone actions with Health and Protection as priority sectors.
- b) Crisis Modifiers (CM). A specific CM Result will ensure a context-based rapid response in case a large unforeseen emergency occurs in the area of intervention.

*Nexus:* Linkages with development and peace building initiatives in Colombia are strongly encouraged in order to promote lasting solutions and resilience for victims of the armed conflicts and facilitate a proper transition in places where the improvement of the situation allows it. Partners are encouraged to foster linkage between a humanitarian project and an already existing resilience/development action. Initiatives that strengthen the nexus and analyse its impact on beneficiaries will be considered with the utmost interest.

*Individual displacement:* Over the past years, it has proven difficult to quantify and target individual displacements. Before engaging in a response targeting individual displacements, partners should demonstrate the linkages with the ongoing recent conflict, measure the cost efficiency of the response and ensure proper targeting based on needs. Analyses on the scale, impact and needs of the victims of individual displacement are encouraged.

DG ECHO will pay specific attention to all-risk analysis and beneficiary targeting, which must be exclusively based on identified needs. The relevance of addressing individual protection of community leaders or human right defenders through humanitarian assistance must be explicitly demonstrated in the proposal.

*Information dissemination* must demonstrate direct impact on identified humanitarian needs. Information dissemination should represent a fraction of the intervention and be systematically linked to an assistance intervention.

Partners are expected to highlight proper *coordination mechanisms* in their proposals. DG ECHO encourages partners to continue providing complete information on their projects to OCHA, the Humanitarian Country Team and clusters as well as public institutions (in

particular UARIV<sup>46</sup>). At local level, partners will coordinate with Local Coordination Teams, local authorities, and other humanitarian actors active in the same area.

All proposals must include *visibility and communication* activities aimed at raising awareness about the humanitarian consequences of this forgotten crisis. All interventions in Colombia should be designed and implemented under the assumption that the State bears primary responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to the populations affected by the conflict. Thus, relations with key stakeholders should include advocacy actions oriented towards engaging local and national authorities to fulfil their responsibilities.

### *Disaster Preparedness*

DG ECHO aims at improving the synergies between humanitarian response and disaster preparedness through operations focused on enhancing local capacities to respond to multiple crises.

Continued focus will be on multiple vulnerabilities of IDPs, migrants/asylum seekers/refugees from Venezuela, communities affected by natural hazards, conflict and/or health emergencies (COVID-19). All actions should seek to improve the beneficiaries' protection and early recovery for better quality of the response. DG ECHO also encourages proposals focused on reinforcing the information management and assessment capacities of institutions and civil society in order to improve the pertinence of the humanitarian response.

## **Central America and Mexico**

### *Other Situations of Violence (OSV)*

OSV encompasses situations of violence that cause significant humanitarian needs and protection risks, while they do not reach the threshold to qualify as non-international armed conflict and therefore fall outside the application of IHL. However, this violence, exacerbated by COVID-19 and natural hazards, does not entail fewer risks, vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs for civilians, and requires a comprehensive response approach to ensure their safety and dignity.

**Target population:** The most vulnerable people suffering from violence and in particular survivors of GBV, internally displaced persons, children and adolescents, people with disabilities, and targeted minorities, including people of the LGBTIQ+ community. Violence is having a significant impact on children and adolescents and hampering their access to education. Their risks include infiltration of gang members in schools, forced recruitment, sexual gender-based violence, extortion, exploitation, abuse and threats.

**Geographical coverage:** OSV-affected countries in northern Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras) and Mexico; as well as Nicaragua due to the on-going repression. Priority will be given to areas with high levels of violence, combined with recurrent and unmet humanitarian needs, and affected by multiple crisis.

**Sector prioritisation:** Priority will be given to the direct provision of protection assistance and to access to life-saving basic services, such as health and education in emergencies.

*Integrated protection assistance:* Due to the inability or political unwillingness of national structures to respond to the needs of survivors of violence, actions should integrate direct

---

<sup>46</sup> Unidad para la Atención y Reparación Integral de las Víctimas del Conflicto

comprehensive case management of the most vulnerable victims and survivors, and if needed, the provision of emergency shelter and alternative care. A holistic and integrated approach of protection is crucial, including medical care, mental health and psychological support, legal assistance and dissemination on rights and services, access to livelihoods and socio-economic reintegration will be considered. Actions must be based on a consolidated and context-specific risk analysis of primary disaggregated data and be needs-based. Interventions should reinforce the promotion of humanitarian access, ensure continuous and effective protection monitoring and strengthened protection information management systems for all stakeholders, and enhance the community approach. Actions aiming at reinforcing existing assistance and protection systems at local, national and regional level are eligible as well.

**Horizontal issues:** In order to enable evidence-informed actions and advocacy, it is imperative to enhance the quality of data and information collected, analysed, shared and managed on OSV and its humanitarian consequences on the civilian population. The reinforcement of coordination and information management systems, strengthening the protection, emergency preparedness and response capacities of humanitarian actors to enhance the response to victims and survivors of violence will be a priority. *Disaster preparedness mainstreaming* remains of paramount importance for actions funded by DG ECHO as cross-cutting theme, based on a comprehensive risk analysis. The introduction of Crisis Modifiers should be considered.

*Humanitarian evidence-based advocacy:* Awareness building actions should aim at generating a proper and wider understanding of the challenges, opportunities and needs inherent to OSV and any action addressing the phenomenon. The ultimate goal is to trigger advocacy action by those with relevant mandate, as well as an added value to act on the long-term solutions.

#### *Regional migration and forced displacement response*

Northern Central Americans and Nicaraguans transit the region in search of safety, dignity, international protection and/or better livelihoods in Costa Rica, Mexico, the US and Canada. Moreover, the region is part of a progressively important transit route (from the Darien in Panama to northern Mexico) for refugees and migrants, from outside the region and the continent, who attempt to reach the US and Canada. Finally, restrictive asylum and migration policies create flows of returnees, who struggle to re-integrate in their communities and often face violence, retaliation, discrimination and exclusion.

**Target population:** People in transit or stranded with limited or no resources are the primary target. Special attention will be given to actions addressing the needs of unaccompanied and separated children, minority communities, including LGBTIQ+ and indigenous groups, GBV and trafficking survivors, elderly, people with disabilities and any other group with specific needs. Actions in support of vulnerable host communities could be considered, e.g. through the provision of community services.

**Geographical coverage:** Border areas require specific attention due to the influx of people stranded, in transit and returnees, often with the use of violence. In addition, the main routes as well as peri-urban settings hosting the most vulnerable refugees and migrants can be considered. Multi-country or regional interventions should demonstrate a

sound strategy, showing the connection between the actions across the different targeted countries.

**Sector prioritisation:** Assistance must be integral and adapted to the identified needs, with a focus on health and protection. The immediate relief and direct assistance provided to people in transit and to most vulnerable returnees should ensure access to qualitative basic services, case management, referral and accompaniment, adequate information on rights, risks and entitlements. Action should advocate for national and regional frameworks to ensure international protection to asylum seekers and refugees and national protection to internally displaced, as well as ensure child protection for displaced children in all actions.

*Health:* DG ECHO will support health operations, which includes primary, maternal and sexual-reproductive as well as mental health. Depending on the availability and on existing local capacities, actions can be implemented directly, or through referrals and follow-up.

*Protection:* Direct case management, legal assistance and access to documentation are considered a priority. Actions facilitating access to qualitative services and implementing active referrals and accompaniment to the most vulnerable people will be strongly encouraged, in complementarity with specific information dissemination strategies on rights and services along the routes, which should be properly monitored and followed by implementing partners on their impact.

*Education in Emergencies* is a priority for DG ECHO and should systematically be linked to child protection programming. The implementation of flexible education models and formal education strategies stands as crucial to ensure children's access to schools. The response should include enhanced hosting capacities of education systems, provision of education supplies, accreditation and transition from non-formal to formal systems, support to education personnel and authorities to enhance socio-emotional development and psychosocial support to most vulnerable children, and social cohesion community actions to reduce discrimination and xenophobia.

*Livelihood support:* DG ECHO-funded actions will focus on the immediate and most pressing needs of the affected population. Stand-alone long-term livelihood interventions will not be supported as such, however DG ECHO promotes the link of humanitarian assistance with long-term programmes focused on socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants.

#### *Food crisis*

In view of the severity and recurrence of recent adverse impacts, compounded by human-induced crises where applicable, interventions related to food assistance will be considered in the so-called “Dry Corridor” and the areas mostly affected by Eta and Iota.

**Target population:** in priority, food assistance interventions will aim to target households categorized in IPC phase 4 and households in IPC phase 3 with additional constraints (households with poor food-consumption and asset base, high number of dependents, absence of remittances, displaced, presence of individuals at risk of and/or affected by acute malnutrition, with a special focus on children under five and pregnant women). The definition of criteria adapted to local characteristics of households is encouraged.

**Geographical coverage:** Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. Areas with highest humanitarian needs as per IPC classification will be targeted in priority. The ranking of communities according to their vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition must be explicit. Geographical targeting should be based on remoteness, lack of basic infrastructure and on the level of relief assistance provided during the past lean seasons.

**Sector prioritisation:** First priority is to improve households' food consumption, unconditional and time-bound to the lean season or in anticipation of it. The choice of the most adapted distribution modality and mechanism will be made based on the analysis of all options available locally. Partners must calibrate the assistance based on the actual households' needs and adjust it to the number of family members. Assessment and monitoring of local food markets is essential for cash-based interventions. Post-distribution monitoring will enable real-time adjustment of interventions.

Short to medium term recovery of *livelihood* capacities can be considered in contexts where the prospects of long-term support from resilience building programs are uncertain and must be based on lessons learnt from similar experiences.

**Horizontal issues:** Most of the Dry Corridor presents low acute and high chronic malnutrition prevalence rates, where humanitarian food assistance interventions should be nutrition sensitive. Activities that protect the nutritional status of individuals at risk are relevant such as direct handouts, adequate trainings and sensitisation, and increased surveillance, monitoring and treatment of acute cases.

The generalized lack of reliable and updated information on the food and nutrition security situation of households gives sufficient evidence for DG ECHO partners to continue strengthening the early warning and response systems in their areas of intervention. Synergies with targeted DP actions and other on-going humanitarian actions are sought. Efforts must be made to increase the quality of local and national situation analysis and dissemination of information should be made with the objective to increase the visibility and the funding of the response to the crisis.

DG ECHO encourages localisation, improved quality financing and direct transfers of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to beneficiaries. Moreover, coordination among humanitarian operations in Central America is encouraged and partners are expected to contribute to joint efforts for needs assessment (HNO), programming (HRP) and monitoring (5W). Partners should ensure as much as possible strong linkages with longer-term development initiatives, demonstrating clear nexus opportunities with food and nutrition security programmes.

### *Disaster Preparedness*

DG ECHO partners should systematically adopt a displacement lens in their humanitarian action, in order to integrate displacement more effectively into risk management, including preparedness. DG ECHO's Disaster Preparedness strategy will aim at supporting Disaster Risk Management systems in community-based preparedness strategies and in key national services (health, protection, food security/nutrition), based on lessons learned from recent disasters (e.g. COVID-19, hurricanes Eta and Iota), predictable and ongoing crises (drought), and the exacerbating violence and forced displacement in the region.

**Target population:** Priority will be given to those communities with the highest risk indicators and the lowest coping capacities, most exposed to natural hazards, pervasive

violence, displacement and food insecurity, and to regional, national and local institutions responsible for DRM in need of technical support.

**Geographical coverage:** Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Panama and Mexico can be integrated in regional proposals.

**Sector priorities:** Support is envisaged in line with the following regional strategies:

1. Risk-based and anticipatory actions. Development of risk and forecast-based tools for early action to further improve capacity to act in anticipation of a crisis and for better preparedness to response. The strategy will enhance local first responders' capacities to deliver basic services. Focus will be put on improving early action and locally/nationally owned rapid response mechanisms, integrating shock responsiveness and protection approach as well as Crisis Modifiers. All the countries in the region should be targeted, but special attention will be given to northern Central America and Nicaragua. The analysis of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in the region will be necessary in order to identify additional risks that vulnerable groups may face.
2. Preparedness in violent and fragile settings and human-induced crises. Developing emergency and contingency plans to enhance communities' resilience to OSV and forced displacement, through the strengthening protection networks, early warning systems, information management and mitigation mechanisms in order to increase preparedness in areas affected by violence and forced displacement. Community-based protection actions, in relation with relevant institutions will be prioritised in order to ensure local awareness and protection mechanisms adapted to the specific context of intervention to ensure feasible actions in vulnerable and fragile contexts.
3. Climate and environment resilience. Most exposed areas to natural hazards should be targeted. As the region is being affected by epidemic outbreaks (COVID-19, dengue and others), epidemic preparedness will be included from surveillance to vector control activities. Preparedness for climate shock-responsive/mobile cash transfer systems and stocks/supplies pre-positioning will also be envisaged.
4. Urban preparedness: enhancing capacities for urban preparedness with an emphasis on cities and urban agglomerations mostly exposed to natural hazards and human-induced disasters, including movement of people (IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers).

**Horizontal issues:** Protection mainstreaming principles (meaningful access to services, accountability, Do No Harm; active participation and ownership by affected people) and all-risks analysis shall be embedded in each DP action. All DP actions must be aligned with the respective national and regional DRR frameworks (Central America Integral Risk Management Policy - PCGIR). This includes policies, strategies, legislation and planning at various levels. A key interface in the development of DP/DRR strategies is represented by national disaster management institutions, which are responsible for the articulation of a national risk reduction policy. However, this does not preclude a multi-ministerial planning/programming dialogue.

Where relevant and feasible, cooperation with European UCPM mechanism could be incorporated, including the possibility of establishing pre-agreements at regional or national level CPM – CEPREDENAC.

Synergies between targeted DP actions, DG ECHO-funded food assistance response and INTPA-funded programmes should be sought to increase the availability of reliable primary data on the food security situation.

Applicants should take into full account the impact of organised violence and other human-induced disasters, as a key element of increased vulnerability of the affected population, extremely weakened access to basic services, and diminished capacities to fully enjoy human rights. Proposed operations should thus include this variable in the disaggregated risk analysis of vulnerabilities and capacities, allowing a more comprehensive approach to strengthening communities' resilience and mitigate the impact of identified threats.

Systematic integration of technical, specific and scientific institutions (national and regional) and of the academic sector should be sought, as well as collaborations with the private sector.

## **Haiti**

DG ECHO will support actions responding to the unaddressed humanitarian risks and needs caused by civil unrest and violence, forced displacements, drastic reduction in access to basic services, drought, food insecurity and to the most immediate needs generated by the earthquake that hit the country on 14 August 2021.

**Target population:** The most vulnerable people suffering from violence and the consequences of natural hazards, including survivors of GBV, internally displaced persons, children and adolescents, people with disabilities, and discriminated minorities. For food assistance, most acute food insecure population (IPC 4 and 3). For DP, national and local institutions responsible for Disaster Risk Management and response.

**Geographical coverage:** Priority will be given to areas presenting high levels of exposure, vulnerability and recurrent humanitarian needs, in particular urban and peri-urban areas, departments identified by the latest IPC mapping as particular vulnerable, as well as the areas hit by the recent earthquake.

### **Sectoral priorities:**

*Food assistance and nutrition:* DG ECHO will support emergency food and cash assistance as well as nutritional support for the most affected population. Proposed activities should demonstrate rapid impact and contribute to strengthening the resilience of beneficiaries. Mid-term activities can be considered when linking with long-term development interventions and clear synergies are demonstrated. Actions demonstrating clear nexus opportunities with EU food and nutrition security programme targeting IPC4 classification will be prioritised.

To that end, actions must pursue as a priority the inclusion of beneficiaries of DG ECHO-funded projects into longer-term interventions in line with the joint ECHO-INTPA strategy. At operational level, this will be translated into a joint targeting, with most acutely food insecure households receiving food and nutrition assistance through DG ECHO-funded interventions and the same households benefitting from longer-term livelihood reinforcement and nutrition support through DG INTPA.

Humanitarian actions will focus on immediate response to acute food and nutrition needs of vulnerable households in food emergency (IPC phase 4). The assistance provided must ensure relevant coverage of existing food gaps, considering Household Economy Approach (HEA), outcome analysis results when available, and basic food basket nominal prices monitored at local markets level. Food assistance must be provided adopting local



market-based emergency response modalities. Initiatives reinforcing the consumption of locally made food will be privileged.

Food assistance interventions should be nutrition sensitive; actions ensuring quality case management capacities of Severe Acute Malnutrition (with and without medical complications) as well as Moderate Acute Malnutrition cases adopting the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition model (CMAM), accompanied by malnutrition prevention activities promoting the adoption of optimal IYCF practices, are encouraged.

Initiatives aiming at reinforcing the analysis of the acute food and nutrition insecurity situations will be considered favourably if their technical robustness is demonstrated and if they feed into the prevailing analytical framework (IPC).

Targeting most acutely food insecure households is essential. To that purpose, it is strongly encouraged to adopt the “frequency list” methodology, considering very poor households’ profiles according to HEA analysis for the livelihood zone corresponding to target areas. In addition, in the beneficiary selection processes partners are recommended to consider the households registry elaborated by the Haitian Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MAST) and partners.

Partners must systematically carry out a comparison between beneficiary lists elaborated through the “frequency lists” methodology and those targeting structural poverty elaborated after the application of the proxy index to measure structural poverty called Haiti Deprivation and Vulnerability Index (HDVI), used by MAST and partners in the framework of ongoing social protection programmes.

*Protection:* DG ECHO will follow a twin-track approach targeting the most vulnerable populations according to the context-specific all-risk analysis, comprising primary disaggregated data and comprehensive assessment. Both preventive and responsive actions, such as direct case management and services provision to most vulnerable people, community outreach, information dissemination and referrals to appropriate services, will be prioritised. A holistic and integrated approach to case management including medical care, mental health and psychological support, legal assistance and access to livelihoods and socio-economic reintegration will be considered.

Interventions addressing the needs of migrants, returnees and deportees and providing first immediate assistance to the most vulnerable repatriated and deported people could be considered. The activities should be designed in line with the Government’s response strategy and build upon partners’ concrete capacities. The immediate relief and assistance provided on arrival to most vulnerable returnees should ensure access to qualitative basic services, case management, psychosocial support, adequate information on rights, risks and entitlements. Special attention will be paid to unaccompanied and separated children, people with disabilities, elderly and other groups with specific needs.

*Shelter:* The earthquake that hit the southern department of Haiti on 14 August has introduced new needs and challenges in the already-fragile situation of the country. Shelter has been identified as the priority for those affected by the disaster. Special focus will be placed on providing a dignified temporary shelter for the families that have lost their house. Another focus will be to provide damaged schools and hospitals with a temporary solution for a minimum functionality until a definitive reconstruction plan is implemented.

*Education in emergencies:* Besides the structural challenges of the education system in Haiti, the recent earthquake in the departments of Nippe, South and Grand Anse has badly

affected school infrastructures, jeopardizing and severely delaying the return to school of children in these three departments. In view of that, emergency response is required to provide temporary learning solutions for the reopening of the classes, as well as material and supplies for qualitative education to ensure retention and mitigate learning barriers. Psychosocial support activities and appropriate support to the socio-emotional development of children should be implemented by partners with proven capacity.

### *Disaster Preparedness*

DG ECHO 2022 DP strategy will aim at strengthening emergency preparedness and response to interlinked multi-hazard risks including drought and violence, forced displacements and outbreaks. The DP strategy envisages to develop further the e-prep approach with strategic partners to improve capacities for rapid response and risk-based anticipatory actions, improve preparedness actions in fragile and violent settings integrating protection responsiveness and including the strengthening of evidence-based analysis. Emphasis will be on most vulnerable urban areas. Resilience and Climate change adaptation will be mainstreamed along the DP strategy.

DG ECHO recommends partners to develop synergies and pooling resources for a more comprehensive approach. In line with the Nexus commitment and the EU Resilience Framework for Haiti, DG ECHO encourages coordination, joint analysis and planning with government services and development donors. The strategy focuses on the following priorities:

- National Systems and partners improve capacities to respond at national, departmental and local level, developing locally and nationally owned rapid response mechanisms based on lessons learned from recent disasters. Stock-piling capacities will be enhanced, E-prep further development will be evaluated, and social protection schemes will be analysed for improved preparedness.
- Local communities and national capacities are strengthened in order to respond to protection needs caused by socio-political unrest and rampant violence. DP systems develop emergency and contingency plans to integrate violence risks and protection needs. Existing mechanisms for violence prevention, mitigation and response are reinforced. The meaningful participation of all vulnerable groups is ensured.
- Local and national capacities are strengthened to ensure the inclusion of a climate and resilience sensitive disaster preparedness approach. Climate shock-responsive capacities developed for preparedness and response (mobile cash transfer systems). Vulnerability and capacity assessment integrating climate risk/impact projections are updated. Epidemic outbreak preparedness capacities are strengthened.
- Special focus is placed on improving urban preparedness and early response with emphasis in Port au Prince for WASH, Shelter and Protection.
- Various models to strengthen emergency response capacity including the use of Crisis Modifiers (CM) and the development of Emergency Response Mechanisms (ERM), with robust protection components and possibly legal support, food, non-food items and shelter.

**Horizontal issues:** Partners must demonstrate a clearly defined overall intervention strategy including phase-out, scaling up and handover processes. A comprehensive all-risk analysis should support the identification of protection threats, vulnerabilities, and capacities of targeted communities.

*Lessons learned:* All ECHO-supported interventions must generate evidence to be shared and disseminated, on targeting processes' results and conclusions.

*Awareness raising:* evidence-based advocacy activities to attract international attention on the humanitarian situation in Haiti are encouraged.

*Localisation:* Partnerships with local and national associations and engagement with local authorities are strongly encouraged.

*Nexus:* Linkages with development initiatives are encouraged to promote long-lasting solutions and resilience for the most vulnerable exposed and affected populations and facilitate a proper transition when and where possible.

*Coordination:* Efforts to increase the quality of the coordination of the response, notably in the food and nutrition sectors, are deemed necessary.

## **Caribbean**

### *Disaster Preparedness*

DG ECHO 2022 Disaster Preparedness and Resilience strategy aims at covering gaps in terms of preparedness and response capacities and strengthen communities, local, national and regional institutions' resilience. In close relation with EU services and coordination with other donors, this strategy should support the Caribbean Comprehensive Disaster Management strategy, links with other relevant regional bodies (such as CEPREDENAC) and related national institutions. Proposed actions should pay a particular attention to protection and inclusiveness as well as the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, notably in terms of food security and social protection shock-responsiveness. It also aims at improving the synergies between humanitarian response and disaster preparedness through operations focused on enhancing local capacities to respond to multiple crises (conflict, forced displacement, natural hazards, epidemics). Partners are encouraged to propose innovative projects supporting such synergies.

**Target population:** Vulnerable communities most exposed to multiple hazards with emphasis on refugees and asylum seekers, stateless and displaced people often not covered by Government led programs and notably social protection mechanisms. Regional and national institutions responsible for Disaster Risk Management, preparedness, and response including in relation with health, education, agriculture and urban planning.

**Geographical coverage:** Priority will be given to areas presenting high levels of exposure, vulnerability and recurrent humanitarian needs, with insufficient capacities to reduce risk or respond effectively as demonstrated by the latest emergencies in Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Belize, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Guyana and Surinam.

ECHO DP strategy for the Caribbean is aligned with the ECHO 2021-2024 Disaster Preparedness Guidance Note priorities:

#### *1. Risk-based and anticipatory actions*

Development of risk and forecast-based tools for early action to further improve capacity to act in anticipation of crisis and for better response preparedness. Focus should be on improving early action and locally/nationally/regionally owned rapid response mechanisms, innovative risk financing mechanisms linked to shock-responsive social protection; strengthening of coordination (including regional and cross-border), generation

of evidence and information management, humanitarian logistics and telecommunications, responsiveness of social protection systems, responsive/mobile cash transfer systems.

Indicative activities may include: Improve forecast-based and anticipatory actions, supply chain management, improve existing social protection mechanisms shock-responsiveness, support to National Disaster Management systems and the CDEMA's Regional Response Mechanism, improve coordination and information management to strengthen data collection and analysis, develop new solutions for disaster preparedness and response.

## *2. Preparedness in conflict and fragile settings*

DG ECHO partners should systematically adopt a displacement lens to integrate displacement more effectively into risk management, including preparedness. Actions should promote protection activities to better integrate displacement patterns and people victims of conflict in national preparedness and response protocols.

Indicative activities may include: Integration of displacement trends in preparedness emergency and contingency plans; improvement of protocols and mechanisms to integrate post-crisis displacements (migrants/IDPs/refugees) and reinforcement of advocacy capacities; strengthening of protection networks, information management.

## *3. Climate and environmental resilience*

With large parts of the Caribbean population living in high-risk areas and heavily reliant on weather-sensitive sectors such as tourism or agriculture, the risks of climate related disasters including livelihoods losses are expected to worsen. Therefore, preparedness actions should contribute to climate and environmental resilience while better preparing to disasters and crisis.

Indicative activities may include outbreak preparedness from epidemiological surveillance to vector control activities, environmental-based actions for preparedness, improvement of capacities to prevent and respond to climate-induced displacements, preparedness to climate change related risks and environmental crises including drought cumulative impacts (notably on food security systems and small stakeholders), regional exchanges on drought management (including with Central America Corredor Seco), ecosystem and nature-based approaches, innovative green technologies in disaster response, eco-friendly purchase, storage and transport of humanitarian items, waste management, social awareness for the implementation of recycling and waste reuse programs.

## *4. Urban preparedness*

Most people in the Caribbean live in cities and coastal areas exposed to multiple hazards, while the most vulnerable inhabit informal urban areas in precarious housing, unsafe and unhealthy conditions. Consequently, actions can contribute to improve urban dwellers capacities to prepare and respond to disasters, while contributing to level up basic living, health, safety and sanitary conditions in slums and poor urban areas. Initiatives shall address existing gaps such as the lack of comprehensive frameworks to address disasters in urban areas, insufficient dissemination of best practices, housing vulnerabilities and the risks of building collapse.

Indicative activities may include: resilient housing linked to slum-upgrading strategies fostering nexus with development programming, enhancing building assessment and retrofitting, awareness raising, community-based preparedness, enhance risk-informed urban planning and decision making, contribute to the Caribbean Safe School Initiative,

Comprehensive Safe Hospital Framework, enhancing response capacity in urban contexts with map server and Resilience toolkits.

### **Cross-cutting issues**

*Protection:* Operations shall incorporate protection principles and promote meaningful access, safety and dignity in disaster preparedness and response. Disaggregated risk analysis, needs assessments, and a rights-based approach shall help to identify threats and vulnerabilities and to establish appropriate responses (including Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence, Housing, Land and Property). Operations shall contribute to stopping, preventing, and alleviating the worst effects of human rights violations and patterns of abuse such as forced repatriation of victims of disasters/ crisis. People with disabilities, the elderly and other minority groups should be systematically included in preparedness processes.

Partners should introduce flexibility to mobilise resources from ongoing actions and respond rapidly to any new emerging shocks occurring in their area of operations (“crisis within a crisis”). Flexibility measures can be triggered to provide a multi-faceted initial response to save lives following a rapid onset crisis; the two main scenarios are: (i) to act immediately while waiting for additional resources; (ii) to respond to small-scale humanitarian needs that would otherwise remain unmet. The application of flexibility measures should be based on an all-risk analysis and the development of worst and most likely scenarios. Partners should develop a detailed plan taking into account pre-positioning of stocks, surge staff, triggers and sectors of intervention.

*Logistics:* Actions can support the development of logistics capacity (e.g. humanitarian logistics, stockpiling and supply chain management). Proposed actions can contribute to improve rapid response mechanisms, strategic prepositioning of emergency stocks, multi-purpose cash-based programming, Civ-Mil coordination in relation with civil protection, UCPM and EU Member States military assets in the OCTs.

*Enhanced partnerships:* DG ECHO has progressively developed solid partnerships with strategic partners including United Nations, International NGOs, Red Cross Movement, CDEMA and EU Delegations in the Caribbean. New operations shall build and enhance existing partnerships to scale up investments in disaster preparedness and foster nexus with development actors. Actions shall also improve partnerships with climate/scientific actors/academia and private sector to strengthen and expand the base of solutions.

## **South America**

### *Disaster Preparedness*

Three overarching priorities will be considered:

#### *1. Risk-based and anticipatory action*

This includes supporting preparedness through risks analyses and forecasts of potential hazard impact, improvement of shock responsiveness and inclusiveness of social protection mechanisms, support to evidence generation, information management and coordination systems, pre-positioning and management of stocks and supplies, innovative solutions for disaster preparedness including capacity building for the use of technology in search and rescue operations, risk analysis and response to emergencies (IT, open hardware, EWARS, etc.). Actions should aim at supporting national disaster management

systems with a view of adapting the institutional and local response to COVID-19 and supporting the articulation between the institutional and territorial levels.

## *2. Preparedness in conflict and fragile settings (multiple vulnerability)*

South America is today the scenario of several interlinked large population movements triggered by the Venezuelan crisis, COVID-19 consequences, Colombian conflicts, and extra continental migration flows. In this sense, DG ECHO partners should systematically adopt a displacement lens to integrate it more effectively into risk management. Actions should support preparedness and response planning for large population movements and promote the inclusiveness of displaced populations and discriminated minorities in preparedness schemes as well as in social protection shock-responsive systems. Improving assessment, advocacy and response capacities is key for reinforcing an inclusive disaster preparedness for indigenous and displaced people exposed to discrimination, environmental disasters, violence and human rights violations.

## *3. Climate and environment resilience*

DP actions can support indigenous and marginalized communities facing multiple hazards, including violence, forced displacements and human-induced environmental/ecological events, with a mainstreamed protection approach. The recognition of ancestral knowledge for the local response to disasters can be integrated in local EWS related to climate change effects. Outbreak preparedness, from epidemiological surveillance to vector control, can also be considered.

*4. Urban preparedness* will be focused mainly on city slums hosting migrants and refugees and exposed to disasters, epidemics, and violence.

**Target population:** National and local institutions as well as civil society organizations dealing with disaster risk management as well as with protection and assistance to victims of violence and forced displacement or migration; communities with the highest risk indicators and the lowest coping capacities, most exposed to natural hazards, pervasive violence and discrimination, post-crisis displacements as well as national institutions responsible for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in need of technical support.

**Geographical coverage:** Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, and indigenous areas of Argentina and Amazonian basin.

**Horizontal issues:** It will be important to take advantage of the momentum generated by recent or ongoing crises to improve preparedness capacities, taking advantage of the gaps identified and lesson learnt. Operations should aim at tackling specific gaps identified, indicating clearly which bottleneck is being targeted to ensure better preparedness.

**Protection:** Operations shall incorporate protection principles and promote meaningful access, safety and dignity in disaster preparedness and response. Disaggregated risk analysis, needs assessments, and a rights-based approach shall help to identify threats and vulnerabilities and to establish appropriate responses (including Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence, Housing, Land and Property). Operations shall contribute to stopping, preventing, and alleviating the worst effects of human rights violations and patterns of abuse such as forced repatriation of victims of disasters/ crisis. People with disabilities (PWD), the elderly and other minority groups should be systematically included in preparedness processes.

*Flexibility:* In order to ensure the necessary flexibility, actions will include Crisis Modifiers, as small events are often overlooked, and large events require time to organise the international support.

*Logistics:* Actions can support the development of logistics capacity (e.g. humanitarian logistics, stockpiling and supply chain management). Proposed actions can contribute to improve rapid response mechanisms, strategic prepositioning of emergency stocks, multi-purpose cash-based programming,

*Enhanced partnerships:* operations shall build and enhance existing partnerships to scale-up investments on disaster preparedness and foster nexus with development actors. Additionally, actions shall improve partnerships with climate/scientific actors/academia and private sector to strengthen and expand the base of solutions. The multi-hazard approach implies a diversification of partnerships, which now will go beyond DRM and will include institutions and civil society organizations dealing with the humanitarian consequences of migration, displacement, violence and environmental crises.