

TECHNICAL ANNEX

AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN, IRAN AND CENTRAL ASIA

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).

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2. FINANCIAL INFO

Indicative Allocation¹: EUR 212 492 150 of which an indicative amount of EUR 7 500 000 for Education in Emergencies.

In line with DG ECHO's commitment under the Grand Bargain initiative, pilot Programmatic Partnerships have been launched in 2020 and 2021 with a limited number of partners. A maximum amount of EUR 3 934 550 will be dedicated to these Programmatic Partnerships in 2022. In addition, new Programmatic Partnerships could be signed in 2022 with partners under indirect management. Part of the allocation of this HIP could therefore also be attributed to these new pilot Partnerships. Breakdown per Actions as per Worldwide Decision (in euros):

Country(ies)	Action (a) Man-made crises and natural hazards	Action (b) Initial emergency response/small- scale/epidemics	Action (c) Disaster Preparedness	Actions (d) to (f) Transport / Complementary activities	TOTAL
Afghanistan	168 057 600				168 057 600
Pakistan	28 000 000		1 500 000		29 500 000
Iran	9 000 000		2 000 000		11 000 000
Kyrgyzstan	1 384 249				1 384 249
Tajikistan	1 502 339				1 502 339
Programmatic ² partnerships			500 000		500 000

¹ 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.

² HIP with EUR 0.5 million for Pakistan PPP.

Regional flexibility reserve*	350 000				350 000
Regional Coordination and Visibility*	197 962				197 962
TOTAL	208 492 150		4 000 000		212 492 150

*In the framework of the pilot Programmatic Partnership with IFRC

3. PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT

a) Co-financing:

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

b) Financial support to third parties (implementing partners)

Pursuant to Art. 204 FR, for the implementation of actions under this HIP, partners may provide financial support to third parties, e.g. implementing partners. This financial support can only exceed EUR 60 000 if the objectives of the action would otherwise be impossible or excessively difficult to achieve. Such situations can occur in cases where only a limited number of non-profit non-governmental organisations 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 HIPs³), 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 Afghanistan

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 48 000 000.
 - Up to EUR 43 500 000 for all Humanitarian Operations
 - Up to EUR 4 500 000 for all Education in Emergencies
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round. Please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2022⁴. Actions will start from 01/01/2022.

³ 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.

⁴ 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, including for Actions on Health, Nutrition, Food Security, Protection, and Emergency Rapid Response. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, can be submitted as modification requests for the ongoing action with a time extension of up to 24 months and a total duration of the modified action of up to 48 months. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 3 above)⁵. 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 partners⁶: All DG ECHO Partners with an established presence in Afghanistan
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form ⁷
- g) Indicative date⁸ for receipt of the above requested information:
 - by 28/02/2022 for all Humanitarian Operations
 - by 28/02/2022 for all Education in Emergencies Operations

Allocation round 2 Pakistan

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 6 500 000.
 - Up to EUR 5 000 000 for all Humanitarian Operations
 - Up to EUR 1 500 000 for all Disaster Preparedness Operations
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: Please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2022⁹. Actions will start from 01/01/2022.
- 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 Multi annual Financial

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

⁵ Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

⁶ Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

⁷ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

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)¹⁰. 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 partners¹¹: All DG ECHO Partners who have an established presence in Pakistan and the Government of Pakistan Memorandum of Understanding. For Partners working with Afghan Refugees the ‘Allowed to Work‘ (ATW) needs to be ensured.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form ¹²
- g) Indicative date¹³ for receipt of the above requested information:
 - by 31/01/2022 for all Humanitarian Operations
 - by 21/02/2022 for all Disaster Preparedness Operations

Allocation round 3 Iran

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 11 000 000.
 - Up to EUR 6 000 000 for all Humanitarian Operations
 - Up to EUR 3 000 000 for all Education in Emergencies
 - Up to EUR 2 000 000 for all Disaster Preparedness Operations
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round. Please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2022¹⁴. Actions will start from 01/01/2022.
- 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 Multi annual Financial Framework, can be submitted as modification requests for the ongoing action with a time extension of up to 24 months and a total duration of the modified action of up to 48 months. The same approach may also be used to the extent

¹⁰ Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

¹¹ Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

¹² Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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)¹⁵. 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 partners¹⁶: All DG ECHO Partners with an established presence in Iran.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form ¹⁷
- g) Indicative date¹⁸ for receipt of the above requested information:
 - by 31/01/2022 for all Humanitarian Operations
 - by 31/01/2022 for all Education in Emergencies Operations
 - by 21/02/2022 for all Disaster Preparedness Operations

Allocation round 4: Afghanistan

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 45 057 600 for Afghanistan Humanitarian Operations.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to section 0 of the HIP - First modification. Inside Afghanistan, priority will be given to assistance in food security (based on IPC data), food security, health and nutrition; livelihood support, support to internally displaced populations.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2022¹⁹. Actions will start from 01/01/2022.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months. All funding requests will need to be submitted as new proposals or modification requests on the basis of the Single Form 2022 or Single Form (Modification Requests) 2021.
- e) Potential partners:
 - a. Afghanistan: DG ECHO Partners with an established presence in the country and an operational capacity. DG ECHO will favour follow-up actions, which continue/expand ongoing operations.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form²⁰

¹⁵ Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

¹⁶ Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

¹⁷ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ 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

²⁰ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 31/03/2022²¹. The topping up of proposals received the first allocation round will be prioritised based on imminent humanitarian needs.

Allocation round 5: Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan – IFRC PP

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 3 434 550
- b) Cost will be eligible²² from 01/04/2022
- c) Potential partner: IFRC. The funding will be allocated to the pilot Programmatic Partnership action ‘Accelerating local action in humanitarian and health crises’ in the following countries: KYRGYZSTAN, TAJIKISTAN
- d) Information to be provided: Single Form²³

Allocation round 6: Pakistan

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 13 000 000.
 - Up to EUR 13 000 000 for all Humanitarian Operations
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: Please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/08/2022²⁴.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 18 months. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, can be submitted as modification requests for the ongoing action with a time extension of up to 24 months and a total duration of the modified action of up to 48 months. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 3 above)²⁵. Education in Emergencies actions should have an initial duration of at least 24

²¹ 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.

²² 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

²³ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

²⁴ 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.

²⁵ Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

months, unless there is a needs- or context-based justification for a shorter duration.

- e) Potential partners²⁶: All DG ECHO Partners who have an established presence in Pakistan and the Government of Pakistan Memorandum of Understanding. Preference may be given to partners with ECHO funding in ongoing actions. For Partners working with Afghan Refugees the ‘Allowed to Work’ (ATW) needs to be ensured.
- f) Funding requests received in the context of the ALERT funding in response to the floods (Emergency Toolbox Humanitarian Implementation Plan ECHO/DRF/BUD/2022/91000) remain eligible for this allocation round, with revisions as appropriate.
- g) In light of limited resources, the proposals selected under this allocation round may be supported through the funds presently made available or through any future top-ups for the same crisis/objective.
- h) Information to be provided: Single Form ²⁷
- i) Indicative date²⁸ for receipt of the above requested information:
 - by 30/09/2022 for all Humanitarian Operations

Allocation round 7: Afghanistan

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 75 000 000.
 - i. Up to EUR 75 000 000 for all Humanitarian Operations
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: Please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/10/2022²⁹.
- d) The use of the services by legally registered cash transfer agents in Afghanistan can be approved as eligible expenditure in the framework of DG ECHO grant or contribution agreements (including cost extensions) to be signed within 12 months as of the date of publication of this HIP-TA, and with the application of a maximum of 5% of each amount transferred through the concerned cash transfer agent, in line with the principles of reasonable and justified costs and of sound financial management, in particular regarding

²⁶ Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

²⁷ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

²⁸ 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.

²⁹ 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.

economy and efficiency. At the latest in the final report, the Partner shall provide a justification for the use of such cash transfer agents as a temporary and last resort option as well as information as to internal control measures in place to mitigate the risks associated with the use of such agents, such as risk of diversion of funds to persons or entities designated under EU sanctions or to entities engaged in illicit activities. Beyond cash programmes, such agents can also be used under the same conditions as above where cash transfers are necessary on a last resort basis to meet Partners' organisational and operational needs (such as paying staff or suppliers).

- e) 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 Multi annual Financial Framework, can be submitted as modification requests for the ongoing action with a time extension of up to 24 months and a total duration of the modified action of up to 48 months. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 3 above)³⁰. 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.
- f) Potential partners³¹: All DG ECHO Partners who have an established presence in Afghanistan, the operational capacity, and a DG ECHO funded contract under implementation at the date of submission, or submitted a request in the year 2022 (under allocation round 1, or allocation round 4). DG ECHO will favour follow-up actions, which continue/expand ongoing operations.
- g) In the light of limited resources, the proposals selected under this allocation round may be supported through the funds presently made available or through any future top-ups for the same crisis/objective.
- h) Information to be provided: Single Form ³²
- i) Indicative date³³ for receipt of the above requested information: by 24/10/2022 for all Humanitarian Operations

Allocation round 8: Pakistan

- a. Indicative amount: up to EUR 10 000 000, for all Humanitarian Operations.

³⁰ Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

³¹ Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

³² Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

³³ 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 3 of this Technical Annex.
- c. Costs will be eligible from 01/08/2022³⁴.
- d. The initial duration for the Action may be up to 18 months. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, can be submitted as modification requests for the ongoing action with a time extension of up to 24 months and a total duration of the modified action of up to 48 months. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 3 above)³⁵. 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 partners³⁶: Partners will be selected from the proposals/requests received under allocation round 6 and the ALERT funding in response to the floods (Emergency Toolbox Humanitarian Implementation Plan ECHO/DRF/BUD/2022/91000). The Partners must have an established presence in Pakistan and the Government of Pakistan Memorandum of Understanding. Preference may be given to partners with ECHO funding in ongoing actions. For Partners working with Afghan Refugees the ‘Allowed to Work’ (ATW) needs to be ensured.
- f. In light of limited resources, the proposals selected under this allocation round may be supported through the funds presently made available or through any future top-ups for the same crisis/objective.

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)?

³⁴ 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.

³⁵ Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

³⁶ Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

- 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
 - 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 contribute 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?³⁷

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

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

4.1.2. Specific operational guidelines and operational assessment criteria:

This section outlines the specific operational guidelines that DG ECHO partners need to take into account in the design of humanitarian operations supported by DG ECHO. It also lists and explains the assessment criteria – based on those outlined in section 3.2.1 - that

³⁷ In accordance with the relevant section of the Single Form guidelines (section10)

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.

The HIP Policy Annex should be consulted in parallel.

General requirements for all country operations

For all country operations, the Single Form should ensure:

- All interventions must be evidence-based and built on robust and continuous needs assessments, to enable agile response to sudden onset of needs.
- Actions must be based on a solid comprehensive all-risks analysis (threats, hazards, vulnerabilities, and capacities) and adequate preparedness plan. Protection, gender, age and disability analysis should inform the response strategy.
- Interventions must respect humanitarian principles, and in particular the principle of impartiality and *avoid doing harm*.
- Mainstreaming of protection, gender, age, and disability inclusion based on the comprehensive all-risks analysis, will be a pre-condition for selection. This includes considering strategies to prevent risks of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and appropriate measures ensuring inclusion of people with disabilities in proposed actions.
- To that end, the actions, must include independent complaints & follow-up mechanism accessible to all beneficiaries, to allow for adjustments of projects so that the quality of assistance can meet the expectations of beneficiaries.
- DG ECHO partners should demonstrate synergies to identify common methodologies for data collection, analysis, and response. Effective and transparent coordination remains crucial.
- Humanitarian advocacy must be addressed through coordinated and evidence-based actions in all proposals.

Education in Emergencies

For **Education in Emergencies (EiE) actions**, priority will be given to funding projects which target at least 50 % girls, unless there is a context-based justification for different targeting.

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

Cash Transfer within a Basic Needs Approach

Modality choice should be informed by a **needs-based and people-centred** response analysis, incorporating **market, operational and environmental analyses**. The use of cash should systematically be considered, across the variety of response mechanisms (anticipatory action, rapid response mechanisms, crisis modifiers, shock-responsive social protection) funded by DG ECHO.

DG ECHO prioritises a Basic Needs Approach (BNA), which seeks to address people's needs in a coordinated and demand-driven way, by putting them at the centre of interventions. Basic needs are the goods, utilities, services, or resources required by households to ensure long-term survival and minimum living standards, without resorting to negative coping mechanisms.

Within the BNA, 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 be sufficient to cover or contribute to **recurrent basic needs** plus **other specific needs** that are not recurrent basic needs. Government-endorsed MEBs and Social Protection Programs' Transfer Values can be used as reference but might not fully reflect the needs in a humanitarian response, particularly in the aftermath of rapid-on-set disasters, when, other acute needs shall be factored in the assistance.

Cash assistance should be risk informed and targeted based on **socio-economic vulnerability, and the protection concerns of individuals and groups**.

DG ECHO promotes a **common programming approach** to reduce fragmentation, with streamlined systems created to avoid duplication and parallel ways of working. This includes common targeting criteria, single or interoperable beneficiary registries, a single payment mechanism, a common feedback mechanism and a common results framework.

DG ECHO will systematically assess the cost-efficiency, 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's cash thematic policy, including the sector-specific considerations in Annex 2 of that document. In addition, programmes above EUR 10 million should comply with the large-scale cash guidance note.

Utilisation of cash in protection programming must have a clear protection outcome and will not be supported unless embedded within legal assistance, case management or accompaniment, and within a wider comprehensive and/or integrated protection response

Applying cash in healthcare and nutrition programming will only be considered on a case-by-case basis and if justified by in-depth assessment and analysis of the availability of healthcare in the proposed area of intervention. Potential cash application in healthcare and nutrition intervention will need to have clear healthcare and nutrition outcomes, with the application of associated indicators in the proposal.

Humanitarian Food Assistance

Improving availability of and accessibility to food shall be considered in the contexts of displaced populations and people affected by both human and natural hazard induced disasters. As needs are multiple, food assistance shall be part of a BNA. Needs and future risks shall be identified through a combination of food security analysis and multi-disciplinary early warning systems (e.g. climate outlook, price trends, population movement tracking) so to allow to prepare for and act early.

Partners are expected to consider minimum environmental arrangements adapted to the context (urban/rural, recent/protracted crisis) to reduce the environmental footprint of food assistance, while preserving its effectiveness: e.g. i) Cooking stoves that are energy-efficient and reduce in-door air pollution; ii) Alternative fuels for cooking that reduce the impact on forests and natural resources; iii) Food varieties with shorter cooking time; iv) Locally-purchased and sustainably-produced food and food supplements vs international procurement; v) Reduced use of plastic for packaging; vi) Farmers' markets; vii) Livelihoods interventions to prevent negative coping mechanisms (e.g. cutting wood for sale) and/or contributing to the protection against extreme weather events.

Strengthening Early Response Capacity

(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 actions³⁸

Whenever relevant, partners should introduce flexibility to mobilise resources from on-going actions and swiftly respond to any new emerging shocks occurring in the area of their operations (a crisis within a crisis). Flexibility measures can be triggered to provide

³⁸ Please refer for more details to the Annex II of the DG ECHO DP Guidance

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 mobilise ad-hoc resources through the ERM/RRM or additional funding. Timeliness of response is a key element for effectiveness of both flexibility measures and ERM/RRM. Partners should adopt indicators to measure the timeframe required to deliver the first assistance (e.g. lifesaving response for xxx persons, and/or need assessment within xxx days from the displacement/disaster/alert/exceeded triggers)

Impact of COVID-19

As the global pandemic continues and countries are still battling with the direct impact of the crisis, the secondary impacts of COVID-19 will likewise be extensive with far reaching consequences for the most vulnerable populations in terms of food insecurity, access to basic needs and increased protection risks.

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. Further, the duty of care towards humanitarian staff is of critical importance for DG ECHO across all actions.

DG ECHO will maintain attention on the most vulnerable population groups – those impacted by the secondary consequences of COVID-19 and those categories that for reason of nationality, ethnicity, legal status, or other reasons, are marginalised and excluded from national safety nets and access to basic services. In this perspective, responding to acute humanitarian basic needs originated by displacement, conflict, natural hazards remain the focus of DG ECHO. Beneficiary targeting needs to consider the combined effects – i.e. shocks and the secondary impact of COVID-19. Likewise, humanitarian actors are expected to adapt targeting tools including enhanced livelihood analysis and geographic focus, in order to improve the capacity to identify the new categories of people in need.

Partners shall take measures to reduce the risks of spreading the pandemic through gathering of crowds during the delivery of assistance; in particular DG ECHO recommends to: i) enhance digital solutions; ii) remove conditionalities requiring gatherings; iii) increase cash-out / vouchers redemptions / in-kind food distribution points; iv) enhance hygiene and distancing at outlet/cash-out/distribution points.

Concomitantly, considering that saving lives generally remains at the core of DG ECHO engagements as a humanitarian donor, it needs to be assured that engagement in COVID-19 activities are not at the expense of other lifesaving activities and a response is based on prioritisation of critical gaps. In line with the global response to COVID-19, support to essential lifesaving activities not directly related to COVID-19 must be sustained.

Zoonotic diseases and new emerging communicable diseases with epidemic and pandemic potential

Asia is prone to the emergence of zoonotic diseases and of diseases caused by new variant viral strains. Diseases that through their epidemic potential pose threats not only to the communities and countries of origin, but also regionally and even globally. Such communicable diseases emerge regularly, as exemplified by seasonal influenza and by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, fuelled by population density, close proximity between humans and animals, and by climatic favourable conditions, including higher environmental temperatures as seen with ongoing global climate changes. Anticipating that such favourable conditions and events will increase possibly significantly in the years to come, it is pertinent that we intensify preventative and response efforts aimed at mitigating the impacts of these epidemics and pandemics. Reducing transmission of pathogens from animals to humans, strengthening of early warning systems, reinforcing rapid response instruments, and investment in the generation of effective and safe medicines and vaccines, are crucial strategic elements in the outlining of epidemic preparedness and response mechanisms that effectively address the threats associated with new emerging communicable diseases.

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, e.g. UN, INGOs and the World Bank. DG ECHO will ensure that Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) policies work together while protecting our mandate, principles and perception.

Actions, when applicable and pertinent, should focus on operationalising the HDP nexus, in particular the nexus between operations in the realm of humanitarian and development funding. Partners should display the (potential) complementarity of the proposed action.

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.

AFGHANISTAN

Access: DG ECHO will expect dedicated focal points within organisations to liaise directly at field level with all relevant actors. Regardless of power shifts and lines of control, comprehensive assessments to be accompanied by a real time and proactive,

where possible, engagement strategy as part of any proposal. Red lines are expected to be clearly defined, as well as being complemented by a clear outline of how they will be monitored, using relevant coordinating bodies and resources such as the Humanitarian Access Group. Access links may be made to clearance activities outlined under the Protection section below.

Health: War wounded, climate and epidemic/pandemic affected populations remain the focus. DG ECHO will support lifesaving niche approaches – rather than comprehensive gap filling – to support continuity of access to primary health care. Projects will clarify the niche approach and how it responds to one more of the critical primary health service gaps geographically speaking, providing a comprehensive package of support including malnutrition screening and immediate treatment, immunisation, maternal and infant healthcare, psychosocial support (PSS) (meeting IASC minimum standards), sexual and reproductive healthcare, **Actions will not be expected to replace or fully assume roles of pre-15 August 2021 infrastructure but will be expected to implement having coordinated with at least three other actors to support inter-agency referrals, follow up and case closure. If possible, broader functional referral pathways (complex malnutrition caseloads, psychiatric needs) can be identified and added.**

DG ECHO will also continue to support trauma response and the overall provision of immediate health-based lifesaving assistance. War wounded support will include first aid trauma posts delivering stabilisation, and essential trauma surgeries; rehabilitative support, and reintegration of those living with disabilities (acquired or otherwise) will also be essential to reach those populations made more vulnerable by reduced health infrastructure.

Essential supplies and commodities will be supported by DG ECHO focusing on nutrition, trauma and epidemic kits.

Services may be delivered via static or mobile health systems once modality is demonstrated to be best suited to the target populations in terms of safe, secure, equitable and equal access.

Multi sector rapid response: Multi-hazard (human and natural induced crises will be priority for response, followed by complex displacement including but not restricted to impact on livelihoods, lack of safety nets and limited/no access to basic services. Rapid response shall follow a basic needs approach including direct assistance to meet food, shelter, WASH, protection and non-food items needs of the households, and referral to services according to context and time specificity.

Preparedness and adaptations to the changing context³⁹ will be essential to reflect programming flexibility in having two or more proposed assistance modalities pre-positioned, including emergency multipurpose cash. The latter should be in line with tools and guidance developed by DG ECHO. Proposals will include market assessments reflecting access assessments for affected communities as well as capacity of proposed partner to regularly update said assessments intermittently throughout project timeline.

Reducing the burden of assessment and reducing the timeline between assessment and response will be essential to deliver real time emergency support in a meaningful rapid response. With very high demand from DG ECHO and all emergency responders for clear lines of coordination, proposals will provide clear explanation of coordinated planning

³⁹ In line with the Crisis Modifiers note (Annex II of the DP Guidance).

completed as part of basic needs rapid response project design; reflecting agreements on red lines of engagement, triggers for adaptation and timelines for response, as well as the standard common targeting criteria, single or interoperable beneficiary registries, a single payment mechanism, accountability measures including a common feedback mechanism and a common results framework. Rule of engagement shall reflect the added value of the rapid response mechanism as first line responder to multi-sector lifesaving needs where no other sectoral responses are yet in place, hence, avoiding duplicating operational costs of the responders and enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of the humanitarian assistance.

Increased operational challenges are understood and are expected to be efficiently reflected in budgeting ensuring that timeliness of response is ensured also as stated above.

Support to Livelihood: It is important to capitalise on lessons from the 2018 drought calling for an early assistance of vulnerable people in their place of origin with the objectives of avoiding the worsening of coping strategies and the depletion of assets. Targeting shall focus on vulnerable farmers and herders on the edge of dropping out of their agro-pastoral livelihood and migrate to urban areas. Seasonality and agro-pastoral calendars shall guide the choice of the intervention to ensure timely and effective assistance. Type, duration, amount, and modality of the assistance shall be coordinated and harmonised among actors and based on markets assessments, land access and protection mainstreaming. Interventions may include: i) Emergency livestock interventions (feeds, vaccination, and animal husbandry) to ensure survival and maintenance of core breeding and young stock to ensure viable herds; ii) emergency support to vulnerable farmers with inputs to support their capacity to invest in agriculture production.

Protection: DG ECHO will prioritise project designs which intelligently integrate a comprehensive package of protection risks, vulnerabilities and services into other easily negotiable sectors, such as Health, Education and Nutrition, and any emergency response. Support will be given to proposals including access to the full integrated package across other sectors such as health, education and nutrition reflecting de-sensitised naming of protection actions to ensure they are fundamentally understood as support for most vulnerable populations. Fundamental responses can include family tracing and reunification, child safeguarding, women and children's health, explosive ordinance risks (Explosive Ordinance Risk Education, non-technical surveys and clearance), Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), and prevention and mitigation of violence, sexual exploitation or abuse. More informed protection activities can also include referrals from health facilities to specialist service points, developing case management plans, and then secondary referral to other relevant services. In addition, advocacy activities may be supported where there is clear evidence of grave violations of International Humanitarian, Human Rights and Refugee Law or of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

Education in Emergencies (EiE): Target groups in the coming year are those that may be critically excluded from education by one or more stakeholders, and may include but is not restricted to girls, children of internally displaced persons (IDP) families, returnees, former child laborers and children of host communities. Learning outcomes must be clearly articulated as part of EiE strategies, and include strategies to mitigate absenteeism, and drop-out. Appropriate accelerated education measures⁴⁰ must be part of the strategy,

⁴⁰ Please refer to

as should protection of education against attacks. Modalities should also reinforce women and girls' inclusion in education; notably considering how to include girls 7 years old plus to begin or continue their education. Assistance should be aligned to Conflict Sensitive Education principles and provide an integrated education and child protection response. This may include ensuring adequate oversight of child safeguarding in any location used for education, ensuring all adults present are accountable to a code of conduct, the provision of PSS for students and teachers, and referral and responses to child protection needs of learners, in line with DG ECHO MHPSS guidelines. Actions should include specific gender needs analysis and responses. Training actions can include CBE Policy minimum standards for literacy to teach grade 1-3 and strong presence of supervision from humanitarian implementers is expected.

Support services: Increased needs in security, access, transport, and surveillance/assessments are understood to be essential to proper management of safe and accountable implementation in Afghanistan. DG ECHO will support efficient use of these resources in a coordinated manner under both IHL and humanitarian principles. Additional support lines will be acceptable where their use in the reach of most vulnerable populations and in line with Do No Harm practices is demonstrated soundly in proposals.

PAKISTAN

Access: DG ECHO potential partners will be required to have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Pakistan. For Partners working for the welfare of Afghan Refugees the 'Allowed to Work' status is required. Partners are recommended to provide an outline of the access strategy, which shall include an analysis of access constraints and mitigation measures proposed.

Accountability to Affected persons (AAP) and synergies: Partner assessments and response strategies need to demonstrate solid methodologies ensuring AAP throughout the project cycle. While maintaining the integrity of principled humanitarian actions, partners are strongly encouraged to coordinate with government and development stakeholders to seek synergies in support of mid-/long terms strategies.

Flood response: Complementary to sectoral guidance – Partners are recommended to design the flood response intervention to meet urgent needs according to technical standards as well as early recovery intervention within the project timeframe. Partners should ensure nexus linkages with rehabilitation and development resources.

Protection: Protection remains central to DG ECHO's operational response through strengthened monitoring and support to targeted assistance. This includes e.g. documentation and legal aid as well as SGBV and child protection case management to respond to violence, abuse, harassment, extortion, and exploitation. For Afghans, regardless of registration status, focus will be on safeguarding the asylum space and provision of basic needs and protection especially in light of a new wave of refugees from Afghanistan. **For the flood response** – protection to be mainstreamed in all interventions.

https://inec.org/system/files/resources/AEWG_COVID19_%20Decision%20Tree_screen.pdf

Education in Emergencies (EiE): As socio-economic and administrative barriers which have been further compounded by COVID-19 persist, access to education for Afghan children remain a priority. DG ECHO's support will target out-of-school children (OOSC) and children already enrolled in formal education but at risk of dropping out with the aim to promote their (re)integration, attendance and retention in formal education, while ensuring a safe and effective access to schools. Partners must propose tailored Non-Formal Education (NFE) activities which are adapted to each child specific learning and academic needs to provide the most relevant pathways (in terms of type and duration of the support) to enter, re-enter or stay in the formal education system, while also focusing on the effective performance of children in school. NFE support should include appropriate accelerated education measures⁴¹ (catch-up classes, Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALP), homework or remedial support, self-learning activities), or any course designed to meet the needs of targeted beneficiaries. DG ECHO may consider NFE activities for adolescents who have been out of school for a long period of time and/or who cannot enter formal education, with the objective of acquiring functional literacy and numeracy.

EiE proposals are expected to integrate child protection activities (identification, case management, PSS, referrals, etc.) either in the form of direct service delivery or through referral to specialised services. **This is applicable for flood response interventions.**

Partners are encouraged to consider innovative and sustainable learning frameworks in their design and response strategies and adhering to DG ECHO's Thematic policy on Education in Emergencies. All education activities should integrate and ensure Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) measures.

Health: Access to Primary Health Care (PHC) for vulnerable populations in particularly Afghan refugees and host communities will continue to be a priority. The health assistance for Afghan refugees will focus on phasing out standalone health activities towards mainstreaming them into the public health system. The needs analysis must build on mapping of the health system with a clear exit strategy to be demonstrated in the proposals. **For flood response** – health interventions should focus on restoring access to PHC. Intervention likewise need to pay attention to mitigating and responding to emerging public health risks and outbreaks.

WASH interventions can be included in the health response as appropriate. Assistance will focus on strengthening the health system and quality of health care delivery. Where feasible, support would be linked to development aid that comprises system strengthening for sustainable response. **For flood response** – provision of safe water supply and cost effective sanitation solutions according to SPHERE and internationally recognised standards. Lessons and best practices should be articulated in the proposal. Hygiene promotion should be integrated with water provision and sanitation taking into account existing knowledge of communities and best practices in transferring knowledge widely.

Shelter and Settlement – Non Food Items: Shelter & NFI needs vary according to circumstances and conditions; those displaced may require immediate emergency shelter, whilst those returning may require more significant support to reconstruct their homes. Partners are requested to coordinate and harmonize approaches, which are to be detailed in the requests.

Food Assistance & Livelihood/Early Recovery: Please refer to above section on Cash Transfer within a Basic Needs Approach. Partners are requested to harmonize the cash transfer value and justify the choice for in-kind versus cash modality. Partners considering livestock interventions – should adhere to the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS). **The protection of Livelihoods and economic assets** through the disaster preparedness models should be considered. **The protection/recovery of livelihoods and economic assets shall be supported by a monitoring framework measuring the recovered economic capacity of the household (yield, number of livestock, livelihood assets) compared with a pre-disaster reference level. Ad-hoc indicator shall be used: e.g., “Number/percentage of target population that restore their livelihood <to....., from.....pre disaster level>”.**

Disaster Preparedness: DG ECHO’s operational priorities comprise of (i) Strengthening preparedness for and scaling anticipatory actions for multi-hazard induced disasters and (ii) Building the capacity of the health system to prepare and trigger response to malnutrition in a context of potential upsurges in cases of COVID-19, recurrent droughts, and other disasters.

The anticipatory actions to be proposed need to demonstrate how they enhance preparedness for acting early, based on the combination of risk-informed analysis, preparedness plans, Early Warning Systems (EWS) and agreed triggers, as well as pre-determined financing. Meaningful actions to prepare for the above, these being for example system strengthening, capacity building and linkages to development assistance with cash-based interventions in the drought, flood and other disaster-prone areas of Pakistan, will be considered. Enhancing risk ownership by national, provincial, district stakeholders is a key priority, in addition to ensuring linkages with the existing social safety nets that enable partners to take pre-emptive actions to minimise the impact of disasters on the most vulnerable communities.

For flood response - partners should note:

- Disaster Preparedness mainstreaming rationale to be presented in the E-Single Form section 4.2; 4.3 and 8 – resilience marker.
- Partners are encouraged a “back to basics” preparedness for Pakistan as a system to detect earlier and respond faster to emergencies. Joined up analysis, thematic complementarity, connectivity and harmonization of models should be demonstrated by agencies so to foster efficiency through the division of labour.
- A dedicated multi-agency, under the leadership of NDMA, lessons learnt exercise should be best proposed at completion of the response operation. Documented lessons learnt and evidence collected as such should be advocated for inclusion in next year’s Contingency Planning, at all necessary levels. This should be reflected in both sections 9 and 11 of the E-Single Form.

IRAN

DG ECHO's operational strategy will continue to focus on the most vulnerable protracted caseload as well as new refugee inflows from Afghanistan. Partners are strongly encouraged to tailor response strategies to support the protection space and targeting the most vulnerable Afghan communities affected by multiple hazards including COVID-19 and its socio-economic impact.

Accountability to Affected persons (AAP) and Joint Operating Principles: Partner assessments and response strategies need to demonstrate solid methodologies ensuring AAP throughout the project cycle. DG ECHO encourages partners to develop joint operating principles thereby enhancing coordination and ensuring coherent and accountable humanitarian actions and advocacy.

Protection: Protection remains central to DG ECHO's operational response through strengthened monitoring and support to targeted assistance. This includes e.g. documentation and legal aid that remove/reduce barriers to access to services and assistance, as well as including measures to reduce/mitigate exposure and responds to violations (such as extortion, exploitation, abuse) through case management. Protection and basic services including advocacy on the protection space for new refugee influxes are strongly encouraged.

Health: Priority will be given to health interventions that enable access to PHC for vulnerable Afghans and host communities in refugee hosting areas. DG ECHO will not support the premiums for registered Afghan refugees to access the national health insurance scheme. However, support measures to assist the most vulnerable refugees that are not eligible for the national health insurance scheme or are unable to afford medical treatment will be considered. DG ECHO will continue, if necessary, to support the vaccination roll-out alongside the support in vaccination awareness and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) activities.

Multi-purpose cash assistance: Cognisant of the secondary impacts of COVID-19, multi-purpose cash assistance, to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable Afghans in complementarity with referral to services and protection, is favoured. MPC shall be coordinated by the cash working group (CWG). Given the high inflation and currency depreciation in Iran, partners shall continuously monitor the cost of the MEB and market accessibility to proactively adjust the value and periodicity of the cash transfer and adapt the assistance to the evolving context.

Education in Emergencies (EiE): Access to education for Afghan children remains a key priority. DG ECHO will support education activities that support vulnerable refugees to enter, re-enter and be retained in formal education (FE). This may involve NFE to provide pathways for children to transition into formal education, or support to children to directly enter and be retained in FE (including remedial education). Appropriate accelerated education measures⁴² must be part of the strategy. EiE proposals are expected to integrate child protection activities (identification, case management, PSS, referrals, etc.) either in the form of direct service delivery or through referral to specialised services. When protection activities are proposed towards an education outcome, the relation between

⁴²

https://inee.org/system/files/resources/AEWG_COVID19_%20Decision%20Tree_screen.pdf

education and protection must be clearly explained, starting from a sound intervention logic, which includes demonstrated effort towards sustained educational participation.

Cash for education will only be considered based on sound, contextualised technical analysis, coordination with relevant working groups, consideration of avoid doing harm, and effective referral to livelihoods and/or other assurance of sustained educational participation with phase-out.

With the COVID-19 impact leading to regular school closures, partners should aim for flexible response strategies to enhance home-based learning opportunities as well as to promote return to and retainment in schools once these re-open. All education activities should integrate and ensure IPC measures.

Disaster Preparedness: Disaster Preparedness remains a priority, with an emphasis on strengthening provincial level multi-hazard disaster preparedness and risk-informed anticipatory policies and systems as well as risk ownership by all actors. Proposals for developing specific competencies, coordination, early warning systems, in order to reduce the impact of acute crisis, and simultaneously promote earlier, swifter and more effective emergency responses, will for example be considered.

DG ECHO DP DL proposals will support building on local systems, particularly for health and education and their respective capacity to prepare for and act early, ensuring service continuity in time of disasters and meeting the likely increase demand for services. Education continuity (i.e. preparedness for education in emergency) and Environmental Health Preparedness are all considered shock responsiveness features, to be progressively embedded into existing health and education system in Iran.

KYRGYZSTAN

DG ECHO's operational strategy will focus in the prevailing humanitarian needs in Kyrgyzstan, providing effective and adapted local response to communities in need. Partners are strongly encourage to tailor response strategies to the multiple crises that Kyrgyzstan is facing related to the spread of the epidemic, the cross-border conflicts, as well as the repeated natural hazards and political instability, considering multi-risk and multi-hazard factors associated with a capacity building.

Protection: Protection remains central to DG ECHO's operational response through strengthened monitoring and support to targeted assistance. This includes the preparation for the possible massive flows of population movements in the country due to the different crises/disaster situations, cross-border armed conflicts and political instability in the country, the improvement of the response and planning processes and psychosocial support. It shall ensure a strong focus to assist the protection needs of refugees, IDPs and other people on the move who are particularly vulnerable, in safe, accountable and participatory manner.

Health: Priority will be given to health interventions that expand the scale and quality of Kyrgyzstan's emergency health preparedness, including pandemic and epidemic preparedness at the community and national levels, in line with DG ECHO's health policies. This will be achieved by building capacities in emergency health, including epidemic control, and risk communication and community engagements.

Cash and voucher assistance (CVA): To improve the profitability, quality and impact of the interventions and ensure a people-centred approach, CVA will be integrated as a key modality of assistance, in line with the Grand Bargain Commitments and DG ECHO's long-standing commitments to use cash assistance in humanitarian settings.

Disaster Preparedness: Disaster Preparedness remains a priority, with an emphasis on strengthening national and community mechanisms to effectively anticipate, respond and recover from the impact of multiple shocks and hazards. Proposals for developing specific competencies, coordination, early warning systems, in order to reduce the impact of acute crisis, and simultaneously promote earlier, swifter and more effective emergency responses, will for example be considered.

TAJIKISTAN

DG ECHO's operational strategy will focus in the prevailing humanitarian needs in Tajikistan and strengthening resilience within vulnerable communities that are exposed to disasters and crises, but also strengthening the capacities to anticipate, prepare, reduce their impact and recover from the shocks and pressures without compromising their long-term development prospects. Partners are strongly encourage to tailor response strategies, considering multi-risk and multi-hazard factors associated with a capacity building, to the multiple crises that Tajikistan is facing related to rising food prices, the socio-economic risks associated with the current Ukrainian crisis, the impacts of COVID-19, disease outbreaks, the recurrent local and territorial natural hazards, as well as political instability and inter-ethnic localized conflicts over land and water resources in the fertile Ferghana Valley (located in the territories of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan).

Protection: Protection remains central to DG ECHO's operational response through strengthened monitoring and support to targeted assistance. This includes the preparation for the possible massive flows of population movements in the country due to the different crises/disaster situations, cross-border armed conflicts and political instability in the country, the improvement of the response and planning processes, capacity building and psychosocial support, among others. It shall ensure a strong focus to assist the protection needs of refugees, IDPs and other people on the move who are particularly vulnerable, in safe, accountable and participatory manner. Particular attention will be paid to Afghan refugees who entered Tajikistan following the crisis in Afghanistan.

Health: Priority will be given to health interventions that expand the scale and quality of Tajikistan's emergency health preparedness, including prevention, preparedness and early response at the community and national levels, in line with DG ECHO's health policies. This will be achieved by building capacities in emergency health, including epidemic control, surveillance, early detection and early response to disease outbreaks and other risks for the health.

Cash and voucher assistance: To improve the profitability, quality and impact of the interventions and ensure a people-centred approach, CVA will be integrated as a key modality of assistance, in line with the Grand Bargain Commitments and DG ECHO's long-standing commitments to use cash assistance in humanitarian settings.

Disaster Preparedness: Disaster Preparedness remains a priority, with an emphasis on strengthening national and community mechanisms to effectively anticipate, respond and recover from the impact of multiple shocks and hazards. Proposals for developing specific

competencies, coordination, early warning systems, in order to reduce the impact of acute crisis, and simultaneously promote earlier, swifter and more effective emergency responses, will for example be considered.