

## TECHNICAL ANNEX HORN OF AFRICA<sup>1</sup>

### FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

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

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

#### 1. CONTACTS

Operational Unit in charge                      DG ECHO<sup>2</sup>/DDG/D3

##### **In DG ECHO HQ:**

Horn of Africa:                                      Sandra Goffin (Head of Sector) (as from September 2022)  
[sandra.goffin@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sandra.goffin@ec.europa.eu)

Djibouti:    Daniel Göhring (Desk officer)  
[daniel.gohring@ec.europa.eu](mailto:daniel.gohring@ec.europa.eu)

Ethiopia:    Ondine Ripka (Desk officer)  
[ondine.ripka@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ondine.ripka@ec.europa.eu)

Claire Della Faille (Desk officer)  
[claire.della-faille@ec.europa.eu](mailto:claire.della-faille@ec.europa.eu)

Vanessa Bajada (Desk officer)  
[vanessa.bajada@ec.europa.eu](mailto:vanessa.bajada@ec.europa.eu)

Kenya:    Dana Nicolau (Desk officer)  
[dana.nicolau@ec.europa.eu](mailto:dana.nicolau@ec.europa.eu)

Somalia:    Dana Nicolau (Desk officer)  
[dana.nicolau@ec.europa.eu](mailto:dana.nicolau@ec.europa.eu)

Daniel Göhring (Desk officer)  
[daniel.gohring@ec.europa.eu](mailto:daniel.gohring@ec.europa.eu)

---

<sup>1</sup> Horn of Africa for this HIP and technical annex covers: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia

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

### **In the field:**

Djibouti: Lisa de La Rubia (Rapid Response Coordinator)  
[lisa.delarubia@echofield.eu](mailto:lisa.delarubia@echofield.eu)

Ethiopia: Yassine Gaba (Head of office)  
[yassine.gaba@echofield.eu](mailto:yassine.gaba@echofield.eu)  
Clément Cazaubon (Technical assistant)  
[clement.cazaubon@echofield.eu](mailto:clement.cazaubon@echofield.eu)  
Jordi Torres Miralles (Technical assistant)  
[Jordi.Torres-Miralles@echofield.eu](mailto:Jordi.Torres-Miralles@echofield.eu)  
Silvya Bolliger (Technical assistant)  
[silvya.bolliger@echofield.eu](mailto:silvya.bolliger@echofield.eu)

Kenya: Matteo Paoltroni (Technical Assistant)  
[matteo.paoltroni@echofield.eu](mailto:matteo.paoltroni@echofield.eu)

Somalia: Javier Rio Navarro (Head of office)  
[javier.rio-Navarro@echofield.eu](mailto:javier.rio-Navarro@echofield.eu)  
Liam Kelly (Technical assistant)  
[liam.kelly@echofield.eu](mailto:liam.kelly@echofield.eu)  
Antoine Esclatine (Technical assistant)  
[antoine.esclatine@echofield.eu](mailto:antoine.esclatine@echofield.eu)

## **2. FINANCIAL INFO**

Indicative Allocation<sup>3</sup>: **EUR 158 998 432<sup>4</sup>** of which an indicative amount of **EUR 16 000 000** for Education in Emergencies.

In line with DG ECHO's commitment under the Grand Bargain initiative, pilot Programmatic Partnerships have been launched in 2020 and 2021 with a limited number of partners. An indicative amount of **EUR 13 130 000** will be dedicated to these Programmatic Partnerships in 2022. In addition, new Programmatic Partnerships could be signed in 2022 with partners under indirect management. Part of the allocation of this HIP could therefore also be attributed to these new pilot Partnerships.

---

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

<sup>4</sup> *total amount of the HIP*

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

Countries	Action (a) Man-made crises and natural hazards	Action (c) Disaster Preparedness	TOTAL
Djibouti	500 000		<b>500 000</b>
Ethiopia	68 000 000		<b>68 000 000</b>
Kenya	15 000 000		<b>15 000 000</b>
Somalia	73 394 050	1 500 000	<b>74 894 050</b>
Programmatic Partnership Regional flexibility reserve*	350 000		<b>350 000</b>
Programmatic Partnership Coordination & Visibility*	254 382		<b>254 382</b>

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

### 3. PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT

#### a) Co-financing:

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

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

Pursuant to Art. 204 FR, for the implementation of actions under this HIP, partners may provide financial support to third parties, e.g. implementing partners. This financial support can only exceed EUR 60 000 if the objectives of the action would otherwise be impossible or excessively difficult to achieve. Such situations can occur in cases where only a limited number of non-profit non-governmental organisations have the capacity, skills or expertise to contribute to the implementation of the action or are established in the country of operation or in the region(s) where the action takes place.

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

#### c) Alternative arrangements

In case of country or crisis-specific issues or unforeseeable circumstances, which arise during the implementation of the action, the Commission (DG ECHO) may issue specific ad-hoc instructions which partners must follow. Partners may also

introduce via the Single Form duly justified requests for alternative arrangements to be agreed by the Commission (DG ECHO) in accordance with Annex 5 to the Grant Agreement.

d) Field office costs

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

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

and

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

e) Actions embedded in multiannual strategies

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

f) Regional and multi-country actions

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

## 4. ADMINISTRATIVE INFO

### **Allocation round 1**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 102 500 000.

- b) Costs will be eligible<sup>6</sup> from 01/01/2022.

---

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

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

- c) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness as well as for any other sectors identified in this HIP when duly justified in view of improving efficiency/effectiveness of the interventions. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, can be submitted as modification requests for the ongoing action with a time extension of up to 24 months and a total duration of the modified action of up to 48 months. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 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: All DG ECHO Partners
- e) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions<sup>7</sup>
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information by:
  - Djibouti and Kenya: 17 January 2022
  - Ethiopia: 25 January 2022
  - Somalia: 12 January 2022

## **Allocation round 2**

### **Part one: Ethiopia**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 10 000 000.
- b) Costs will be eligible<sup>8</sup> from 01/01/2022.
- c) The initial duration for expected new activities is up to 8 months.
- d) Geographical location: areas most hit by the drought in Oromia, Somali and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples regions, hosting the most vulnerable population groups and where an urgent scaled-up emergency response is needed.
- e) Priorities:
  - Emergency life-saving response: emergency food security and livelihood assistance (with a focus on Multi-Purpose Cash Transfers and the preservation of core/breeding livestock), nutrition support,

---

<sup>7</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>8</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.

integrated nutrition and health services, and WASH, as described under Section 4.1.2.1 (Country-specific Priorities and Modalities) of this Technical Annex. Protection should be mainstreamed in all actions. Partners should demonstrate well-established coordination with other actors and the response coordination mechanism, including development donors to ensure synergies with long-term support to livelihoods and income-generating activities, and disaster preparedness actions.

f) Potential partners:

- Internationally mandated agencies in food security, nutrition and agriculture
- DG ECHO-funded emergency rapid response mechanisms
- DG ECHO-funded partners with demonstrated solid experience and well-established operational presence in the following zones: Bale, Borena, East Bale, Guji (Oromia), South Omo (SNNP), and Afder, Korahe, Liben, Shebelle (Somali), with a capacity to rapidly scale up their response.

g) Information to be provided: Modification requests of ongoing DG ECHO-funded actions.<sup>9</sup>

h) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 15 May 2022.

## **Part two: Kenya**

a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 2 000 000.

b) Costs will be eligible<sup>10</sup> from 01/04/2022.

c) The expected duration for new activities is up to 8 months.

d) Geographical location: Arid and Semi-Arid counties (ASAL), in particular areas most affected by drought with high IPC levels (3 and above), declared in emergency/alert phase by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), and with limited or no support from other actors.

e) Priorities:

- Life-saving assistance to address **food insecurity** through multi-purpose cash transfers, with independent targeting and verification by the applicant. Partners should demonstrate well-established

---

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

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

coordination with other actors and the response coordination mechanism, including development donors to ensure synergies with long-term support to livelihoods and income generating activities, and disaster preparedness actions.

Life – saving activities aiming to ensure access to quality **nutrition** treatment and minimize impact on child mortality. Coordination with other actors and the established response coordination mechanism should be demonstrated.

- f) Potential partners: DG ECHO funded partners which have an added value given their ongoing DG ECHO funded activities and immediate operational capacity in the above-mentioned priority sectors/areas):
  - The Kenyan Cash Consortium (led by ACTED)
  - UNICEF
- g) Information to be provided: modification requests for ongoing actions. <sup>11</sup>
- h) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 15 May 2022.

### **Part three: Somalia**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 20 000 000.
- b) Costs will be eligible<sup>12</sup> from 01/01/2022.
- c) The expected maximum duration for new activities is up to 12 months.
- d) Geographical location: drought/famine prevention operational priority 1 districts as endorsed by the Humanitarian Country Team.
- e) Priorities: **integrated, principled life-saving** actions with demonstrated focus on most vulnerable population groups (both drought-displaced and most affected communities). Partners should also demonstrate coordination and complementarity efforts. The following sectors will be prioritised:
  - **Food security** aiming at fast track delivery of multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) through single use of Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) registry of drought-displaced households and/or hard-to-reach, most drought affected rural populations. Actions should aim at monthly MPCA distributions at Cash Working Group defined drought response transfer values, use of common PDM mechanisms, and reinforced price and market monitoring (including access to) in targeted areas;

---

<sup>11</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<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.

- Integrated **health and nutrition** actions maximising outreach and community surveillance for communicable diseases. Adequate and functioning referral mechanisms, with direct case management at referral facilities. Support to vaccination campaigns can be considered.
  - **WASH** activities: systematic inclusion of hygiene kits in RRM and sensitization; regular water quality monitoring at distribution point for increased surveillance/risk analysis of water borne diseases as well public health risk informed sanitation programming at site level. Partners should consider timely/quick strategic water source repair/rehabilitation to secure emergency access to water.
  - **CCCM** under mixed modalities (fixed/mobile) for greater coverage, inclusive emerging sites, and capacity for swift registration/verification; action should maximize joint efforts with relevant partners to enable multi-sectorial rapid response, and systematic nutrition and health screening and response. Partners must also consider protection monitoring at site level.
  - **Protection:** Country-wide identification and reporting of displacements and associated protection incidents
- f) Potential partners: DG ECHO Partners that, under HIP allocation round 1, have been placed in the reserve list or that have been pre-selected for funding for the above-mentioned sectors and are currently operational in the priority areas defined in d).
- g) Information to be provided: updated Single Form for partners in the reserve list or Modification requests of an ongoing action.<sup>13</sup>
- h) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 20 May 2022.

### **Allocation round 3 (Ethiopia only)**

- a) Indicative amount: unallocated amount under allocation round 1 for Ethiopia only - Education in Emergencies (EiE) line – up to EUR 1.5 million.
- b) This assessment round corresponds to the needs described in section 2.2.6 of the HIP and the relevant conditions and priorities mentioned under the updated 4.1.2.1 Country-specific Priorities and Modalities of this Technical Annex for Ethiopia.
- c) Costs will be eligible as from 15/08/2022.
- d) Actions should have an initial duration of at least 24 months, unless there is a needs- or context-based justification for a shorter duration (the action must cover at least one full academic year).

---

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



- e) Locations: Tigray (Central, Eastern, Northwestern zones) and Amhara (North Wollo, Wag Himra). Actions to be proposed in locations that are relatively stable and where EiE infrastructure/capacity is available at least at a minimum level.
- f) Additional indications: Actions can extend existing operations/projects (DG ECHO-funded or others) or complement initiatives in other sectors, such as school-based WASH and child protection. Complementarity (no duplication) is to be ensured with other initiatives, such as Education Cannot Wait, EHF, and other actions receiving EU funds. EiE actions proposed should be integrated with specialised child protection services targeting the same population. Only integrated and coordinated actions will be accepted for assessment.
- g) Potential partners: All DG ECHO Partners with demonstrated experience/expertise in EiE and a well-established presence in the selected locations.
- h) Information to be provided: New proposals/Single form or modification requests of ongoing DG ECHO-funded operations.
- i) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 29/07/2022.

#### **Allocation round 4**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 4 498 432
- b) Costs will be eligible<sup>14</sup> as 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 country: Somalia
- d) Information to be provided: Single Form<sup>15</sup>

#### **Allocation round 5**

##### **Part one: Ethiopia**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 10 000 000.
- b) Duration: DG ECHO will fund short term and immediate operations to scale up the on-going response to humanitarian needs
- c) Geographical location: Priority areas in the South and South-East areas as identified in the Humanitarian Response Plan 2022 and in the revised drought response plan (September 2022) i.e. areas with severe food needs.

---

<sup>14</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>15</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL

- d) Priorities: Emergency life-saving response: emergency food security and livelihood assistance (with a focus on Multi-Purpose Cash), nutrition support, integrated nutrition, health and WASH services, as described under below Section 4.1.2.1 (Country-specific Priorities and Modalities) of this Technical Annex. Protection to be mainstreamed in all actions. Partners should demonstrate well-established coordination and integration, whenever pertinent, with other actors and the response coordination mechanism, including with development programs when possible, to ensure synergies and complementarities with long-term support to livelihoods and income-generating activities, and disaster preparedness actions.
- e) Potential partners: DG ECHO partners with ongoing funded operations in the affected areas as identified above in section c), with the capacities to scale up their operations and with track records of effective delivery of emergency assistance, in particular through MPCT.
- f) Information to be provided: Modification requests of ongoing DG ECHO-funded actions.<sup>16</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: **31/10/2022**.

### **Part two: Somalia**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 10 000 000.
- b) DG ECHO will fund short term and immediate operations to scale up the on-going response to humanitarian needs
- c) Geographical location: Drought and famine prevention operational priority areas 1 as endorsed by the Humanitarian Country Team.
- d) Priorities: **Integrated, principled life-saving** actions with demonstrated focus on most vulnerable population groups (both drought-displaced and most affected communities). Partners should also demonstrate coordination and complementarity efforts. The following sectors will be prioritised:
  - a. **Food security** aiming at fast-track delivery of multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) through single use of Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) registry of most drought affected rural populations. Actions should aim at monthly MPCA distributions with transfer values as defined by the Cash Working Group drought response, use of common PDM mechanisms, and reinforced price and market monitoring (including access to) in targeted areas;
  - b. Integrated **health and nutrition** actions delivering standardised, basic package of services, community surveillance and supported referral mechanisms, with direct case management at referral facilities. Outreach

---

<sup>16</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

services through mobile clinics could be considered only if implemented in famine mitigation hot spots for a limited period of time.

- c. **WASH:** Emergency drinking water provision coupled with timely/quick strategic water source repair/rehabilitation can be considered in critical hotspots. Public health risk-informed WASH programming in IDP sites with verified critical WASH gaps, in cholera hotspots, can be considered.
- e) Potential partners: DG ECHO partners with ongoing funded operations in the concerned areas as defined above in section c), with the capacities to scale up their operations and with track records of effective delivery of emergency assistance.
- f) Information to be provided: Modification requests of ongoing DG ECHO-funded actions <sup>17</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: **24/10/2022**.

#### **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
  - 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

---

<sup>17</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

- 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>18</sup>

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

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

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

This section outlines the specific operational guidelines that DG ECHO partners need to take into account in the design of humanitarian operations supported by DG ECHO. It also lists and explains the assessment criteria – based on those outlined in section 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. All sectorial actions must be compliant with the respective ECHO policy.

---

<sup>18</sup> In accordance with the relevant section of the Single Form guidelines (section10)

The **HIP Policy Annex** should be consulted in parallel.

All interventions must **mainstream COVID-19 measures** such as population awareness and Infection, Prevention and Control measures wherever necessary.

## **Protection**

Considering the existing conflict dynamics in the Horn of Africa region, coupled with recurrent natural shocks/disasters and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, all proposed interventions should be informed by a thorough **gender-informed risk analysis**. The risk analysis is paramount to develop programming that can address threats, vulnerabilities and capacities of affected populations, hence reducing their exposure to protection risks (i.e. interventions with a protection outcome). The gender-informed risk analysis is crucial for all programming, not just protection programming, to ensure a conflict sensitive approach.

Moreover, taking into account the strong correlation between natural disasters, epidemics and conflict, **integrated actions**<sup>11</sup> are strongly encouraged where possible and where partners can demonstrate added value of integrated responses.

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

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

**Coordination and advocacy** remain key. DG ECHO encourages partners to develop advocacy plans for any advocacy efforts to ensure coherence and enhanced measurement of outcomes. Coordination within the protection sector is a key concern and engagement of protection actors in multi-faceted coordination efforts is key to ensure protection mainstreaming and the centrality of protection across all sectors.

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

Detailed priorities for the protection sector are included in the country-specific paragraphs.

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

### **Transfer modality**

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

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

Where assistance is to be delivered in the form of cash transfers, particular attention will be paid to the principles laid down in DG ECHO's cash guidance note, which will form the basis for the assessment and selection of partners, in particular in the case of large-scale transfers. Partners will be expected to demonstrate a satisfactory efficiency ratio and, to the extent possible and taking into account the operational context, partners will be assessed on their ability to work based on common targeting criteria, single or interoperable beneficiary registries, a single payment mechanism, a common feedback mechanism and a common results framework. In line with the cash guidance note, DG ECHO will expect partners to strive for segregation of duties and full transparency on the costs of implementation. Furthermore, partners should ensure that the efficiency ratio is maintained throughout the action, unless otherwise approved by DG ECHO. For the delivery of smaller-scale cash transfers, DG ECHO will assess proposals paying particular attention the Guidance note's principles of coordination, harmonisation and multi-partner approach.

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

The sectoral and multisectoral outcomes of cash programmes should be monitored against internationally accepted norms in a consistent way. The monitoring of MPC interventions

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

### **Strengthening Early Response Capacity**

In addition to protracted crises, the Horn of Africa (HoA) is characterised by recurrent natural and human induced, rapid and/or slow onset crises. Besides the expected inherent adaptability of all humanitarian partners, DG ECHO will systematically promote and address preparedness for early response in all its activities as follows:

#### On the Humanitarian Aid Budget Line:

- (1) Emergency/Rapid Response Mechanisms (ERM/RRM) as standalone 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-onset crisis. For slow-onset, objective indicators with thresholds for engagement / disengagement should be defined in coordination with other stakeholders including the State Authorities.
- (2) Flexibility embedded into the actions (Crisis Modifier): whenever relevant, partners should **introduce flexibility** to 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 preparedness and response plan with clear thresholds and triggers to guide actions, considering prepositioning of stocks, surge staff, and sectors of intervention.

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

When activating the Crisis Modifier (CM), partners shall inform DG ECHO Country Office. If the funds of the CM are not used, the partner shall propose to DG ECHO how to

reallocate the resources, in the interim report or not later than one month before the end of the action.

On the Disaster Preparedness Budget Line:

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

Additional information can be found in **section 4.1.2.1** below.

**Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus**

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

In the context of protracted forced displacement, DG ECHO may consider providing initial seed funding with the objective of mobilizing longer-term funding from development actors (governments or donors). This in particular through the design of a context-specific analytical framework on durable solutions composed of the three dimensions of safety for forced displaced persons (physical, material and legal safety) defined by IASC - whatever their displacement trajectory (return, relocation, local integration). Such initial analysis exercise needs to be done as part of a multi-stakeholder initiative in a given area (area-based analysis), aimed at mapping and identifying the needs related to the provision of services for the populations, and based on this, defining advocacy strategies/ plans.

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



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

Adapting responses to future climate change as well as reducing environmental degradation are highly relevant in partners' interventions. Such actions also contribute to the European Commission's overall implementation of the European Green Deal<sup>19</sup>.

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

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

## **Remote management**

In Somalia, Ethiopia, and other Horn of Africa countries as relevant, partners must pay particular attention to "*DG ECHO approach to remote management*"<sup>20</sup>, in terms of its requirements for independent assessment, staff qualifications and experience, monitoring capacity, respect of humanitarian principles, security management, and the life-saving imperative. Partners must maintain efforts to increase acceptance by communities and parties to the conflict through their conduct, demonstrated neutrality and impartiality and not least quality of projects and services.

## **Visibility and Communication**

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

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

#### **a) Djibouti:**

DG ECHO will continue to support the humanitarian needs of vulnerable migrants and deportees on the "Eastern Route" into and from the Arabian Peninsula, with a focus on operations in Obock, and with a strong emphasis on protection. Priority will be given to monitoring of movements, registration and reception, and assistance in the quarantine sites (if applicable/open) as well as in the informal sites along the route. Funding requests

---

<sup>19</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en)

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/ngo/actions-implementation/remote-management>

should pay particular attention to extremely vulnerable cases, such as Unaccompanied Minors. Actions may include food assistance for the most insecure households or newly displaced people, support to access to safe water for migrants from their point of entry in Djibouti to their point of departure or establishment: location of scheduled outputs should be aligned with the main migration route and daily walking distance. Design should include the need of host communities located alongside those routes. Close monitoring of the effective availability and access to the services provided by those outputs is required.

Other interventions in Wash, Shelter & Settlement will be limited to emergency response in case of a sudden increase in the number of vulnerable migrants and deportees.

Should additional funding become available, DG ECHO will support access to protective learning environments for vulnerable refugee children and adolescents to enter, re-enter or be retained in formal education.

## **b) Ethiopia:**

### **General considerations:**

Partners will need to include in their proposals or modification requests an in-depth **gender-informed conflict and protection analysis** identifying the conflict dynamics and proposing ways to reduce identified risks. Partners are expected to maintain a principled humanitarian response at all times.

**All proposals** will need to demonstrate the prioritisation of urgent needs as well as capacity to provide rapid/early response to crises through a solid risks assessment, the identification of relevant early warning / alert systems and the use of flexible mechanisms (see below). Internal capacity to deliver effectively in the proposed areas of intervention should be convincingly spelled out (operational presence, human resources, logistics, safety, security measures etc.). Special attention will be given to proposals clearly demonstrating cross sectoral integration.

Partners will have to demonstrate a **clear prioritisation of the crises and of the targeted areas based on the urgency, scale and severity of the needs**. Partners are expected to conduct independent direct or joint assessments, participate actively in coordination fora and describe precisely their capacity to respond in a timely manner. Complementarity with other donor projects should be demonstrated. In addition, projects will also need to explain the targeting and verification mechanism (at household/individual level), demonstrating neutrality, impartiality and independence in the process.

### **Strategic priorities and modalities**

**Internal conflicts:** priority will be to ensure rapid life-saving humanitarian response to ongoing and protracted conflicts situations across the country. **However, in light of the evolving conflict in Northern Ethiopia, with access impediments and significant disruptions in the provision of humanitarian assistance, DG ECHO will support diverse, innovative and flexible approaches to aid delivery, using all tools available and windows of opportunity to provide timely response.**

Particular attention will be placed on 1/ populations unable to access assistance 2/ newly displaced populations 3/ secondary displacement and populations whose return is putting them at higher risk and/or vulnerability due to insufficient security or material conditions. Attention to host populations in both places of displacement and return is paramount, via a Do No Harm and conflict sensitivity approaches whereby the protection of conflict-affected populations is an essential objective.

***Refugees, returnees, asylum-seekers and deportees:*** specific attention will be put on new arrivals, as well as most vulnerable individuals/households in protracted situations. Focus will be on access to quality primary services, legal counselling, legal case management, protection monitoring (including cross-border) and improved access to reception and documentation services for new arrivals, including timely identification of vulnerabilities as well as on advocacy.

***Natural shocks including drought, floods, epidemic outbreaks and pests:*** DG ECHO will prioritise its response to natural and climatic shocks to the most urgent and critical needs. DG ECHO's comparative advantage will be mainly in supporting the early response to these natural shocks in an attempt to mitigate their impact on the affected populations and prevent further deterioration of the situation.

**Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Early Response** in the fluid context of Ethiopia, is a clear priority and will be covered by 2 mechanisms: i) Crisis Modifiers (CM) which should be considered in any response and/or ii) ERM/RRM; for more details see **section 3.2.2** above.

Partners proposing ERM/RRM should have the capacity to implement or support/enhance four core functions:

- a. Coordination, information on humanitarian situations, Early Warning and advocacy on humanitarian needs and on access including agreements with Administrative Authorities;
- b. Preparedness, contingency plans, risk scenarios analysis, stock pre-positioning and stockpiling;
- c. Management, coordination and monitoring of sub-grants;
- d. Management of the grievance mechanisms.

Responses must include multisectoral life-saving interventions. Despite the short-term nature of ERMs/RRMs interventions, conflict and protection analyses remain mandatory and should be ensured prior to any implementation.

In view of reducing potential conflicts of interest and optimising coverage of emergency needs, DG ECHO recommends separation between the roles of grant management and the delivery of the response, and requires the establishment of a solid, effective and participative steering committee structure, closely coordinating with similar emergency tools existing in Ethiopia.

**Coordination & Advocacy:** are key elements to ECHO funded intervention in Ethiopia and partners will have to demonstrate the following:

- a. **Coordination** efforts that go beyond the mere participation in the cluster coordination system – i.e. strategic and operational coordination (in particular

strengthening the inter-cluster coordination, ensuring synergies among interventions at field level and with other coordination structures put in place for a specific crisis (such as ECC, EOC, Hubs, area based coordination, etc.) in support of cluster coordination.

- b. **Strategic advocacy plans** developed from an assessment of the risks to humanitarian principles and proposing concrete actions in case those risks materialise.

Whenever relevant and where possible, **multi-purpose and unconditional cash** transfers will be the preferred modalities for addressing the basic needs of the most vulnerable populations. Partners should ensure full participation in the Ethiopia Cash Working Group (ECWG). Collective efforts and advocacy should be made to ensure that efficient cash delivery systems are established.

### Sectoral priorities

**Protection:** considering the likelihood of further conflict and refugee influx in 2022, any protection intervention will need to include risk- and vulnerability-informed preparedness activities; safe and quality protection case management (including legal) will be supported. In the IDP response, direct protection monitoring will be prioritised. Interventions focusing on protection monitoring should include the provision of specific assistance to identified cases, in line with ethical standards. Protection coordination with concrete and measurable outputs remains a priority. In principle DG ECHO supports operational engagement in durable solutions for IDPs upon 4 principles (voluntary, dignified, informed, sustainable) being fully respected. Meanwhile DG ECHO will support advocacy initiatives on the matter.

**Food assistance and livelihood:** DG ECHO will support food assistance responses that demonstrate alignment with sectorial standards, quality and regularity in their implementation, with prioritisation of the most critical needs and harmonisation with other actors and systems. With a new shock as the entry point, actions ensuring the protection of livelihood assets could also be considered but remain second level priority as long as the immediate and critical food gap is not covered.

**Health:** COVID-19 response (all pillars), plus robust interventions to other epidemic outbreaks (cholera, measles and malaria in particular) including support to vaccination campaigns, will be considered on a case-by-case basis, in strict accordance with International Health Regulations (IHR) and existing international guidelines for the particular disease. In addition, temporary/flexible responses for displaced populations shall be considered for funding. Mobile clinics should integrate the full package of basic services and programmes, including referrals. For the refugee response, health actions should focus on immediate short-term support, and be complementary to long-term initiatives. Ensuring availability of commodities and consumables (medicines and PPEs) is essential in all health responses and partners are expected to propose clear and coordinated approaches to support this component, in line with ECHO quality assurance requirements.

**Nutrition:** DG ECHO will focus on areas affected by a shock (man-made or natural) and with a high risk of fast deterioration of the nutritional status of the affected population. Support will target facilities involved in nutrition programming at all levels of the health system based on identified gaps, and consist of technical reinforcement, provision of

equipment and logistic support for transportation of nutrition products, and access to safe water and sanitation based on context- or facility-specific analysis. For the refugee population, DG ECHO will support actions responding to high rates of acute malnutrition in the camps and receptions centres, including the MAM pipeline.

**Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Shelter and Settlements (S&S):** Interventions will privilege the emergency response in conflict and/or natural disaster affected areas (ERM/RRM) and the post emergency support to conflict affected population in camps or informal type of settlements.

WASH interventions in conflict affected communities will focus on the restoration (repairs, mainly) of existing services damaged by the parties in conflict. No upgrading of those services is foreseen unless communities are hosting a high number of IDPs or refugees whose presence is likely to overwhelm their initial capacity and/or generate a public health related hazard.

**Education in Emergencies:** DG ECHO support will focus on forced displacement i.e. the refugee response as well as displacement crises which are not financially supported by the Education Cannot Wait initiative. Projects will ensure that existing schools have adequate capacity to host displaced populations, such as temporary learning spaces (as well as access to water and segregated latrines), increasing safe access to quality formal and non-formal education services. Actions should aim at increasing enrolment and implementation of tailored education retention measures, in particular for girls and adolescents, including accelerated programs and/or language skills acquisition enabling learners to transition to the formal system. To this end, actions supporting the transition (and retention) from primary to lower secondary school level will also be considered.

Conflict-affected children in northern Ethiopia are suffering from prolonged and acute disruption of education. Here, DG ECHO-funded EiE programmes can alleviate the huge unmet humanitarian gaps through the provision of resources and technical expertise. The EiE amount available for allocation under round 3 is targeting the most vulnerable IDPs, local communities and recently returnee children in Tigray (Central, Eastern, Northwestern zones) and Amhara (North Wollo, Wag Himra). DG ECHO's contribution in these regions could include support to access to equitable quality informal and formal learning opportunities, provision of remedial or accelerated classes, increased enrolment of learners, training of teachers, small-scale rehabilitation of school facilities, construction of temporary learning spaces, provision of educational materials and supplies, protection training, emotional support for pupils and students, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

#### **c) Kenya:**

#### **Strategic priorities and modalities**

DG ECHO will continue to support the **refugee operations in Dadaab and Kakuma** (including asylum seekers, undocumented individuals and possible new caseloads), with a focus on the **provision of timely, adequate and appropriate basic services**, including food, health, nutrition, education, and protection. DG ECHO will only consider actions implemented by actors already working in these sectors and present in the camps. All interventions should allow enough flexibility to adapt activities in view of the potential

camps closure decided by the Government of Kenya in March 2021 (including by foreseeing a Crisis Modifier).

The provision of humanitarian services other than food assistance and protection in Kalobeyei settlement may be considered only in case of a new emergency and with a clear exit strategy from the onset. In this case, and when relevant, vulnerability-based targeting could be developed. Actions in the settlement must be well articulated with the longer-term actions funded by other EU instruments and donors, avoiding overlap.

Pilot initiatives related to durable solutions for refugees in protracted situations, alternative and/or innovative approaches contributing to building the self-reliance of the displaced population in a nexus perspective (i.e. aimed at increased shared responsibility with development actors) can be supported.

In their response, partners should aim at expanding the use of **Multi-Purpose Cash** (MPC) as part of a comprehensive approach to responding to basic needs (whenever services are available). Partners should contribute to the discussions on the cash amounts and sectors, using the Kenya Cash Working Group (KCWG) as a platform for coordination and harmonization. Particular attention to nutrition sensitive food assistance should be provided in the definition of needs / Minimum Expenditure Baskets (MEB). Where cash is provided for a specific sector outcome and to complement the MEB, the design must take into account related ongoing qualitative responses/services to establish the gap and inform the transfer amounts. Efforts should be made to ensure that efficient and coordinated systems for cash delivery are established as well as appropriate accountability systems. Furthermore, DG ECHO might consider supporting actions that can contribute to inform and enable the environment towards establishing safety net schemes in refugee settings, in coordination with other donors.

Given the ongoing deterioration of the food security and nutrition situation in the ASALs DG ECHO might consider funding actions in response under this HIP. A potential DG ECHO response would focus its response in areas with severe food needs (IPC3 and above) prioritizing the most vulnerable population and supporting a coordinated and harmonized response. DG ECHO could also provide ad hoc support to help ensure access to quality nutrition treatment and minimize impact on child mortality. In this context, linkages to transitional / Humanitarian-Development Nexus paths are to be sought to achieve collective outcomes that reduce needs, risks and vulnerability.

### **Sectoral priorities**

**Protection:** DG ECHO will support protection standalone activities aimed at ensuring the protection of refugees and asylum seekers (including undocumented individuals) as well as activities focusing on prevention and response to violence provided that there is demonstrated partner capacity. Activities relating to population movements – including border monitoring, intentions surveys in relation to returns processes will be supported if conducted based on a thorough risk assessment. Considering the fluidity of the current situation, DG ECHO will also consider advocacy activities that help highlight issues in relation to compliance with Refugee Law, refoulement or other risks that might arise. All advocacy proposed activities must be part of an advocacy plan with clear objectives, outcomes, and stakeholder analysis.

**Education in Emergencies:** In response to the consequences of the prolonged closure of schools in 2020 following the COVID-19 pandemic, DG ECHO will continue to prioritise activities that support access to protective learning environments for vulnerable refugee children and adolescents to enter, re-enter or be retained in formal education. This objective can be achieved through i) support to directly enter and be retained in formal education and/or ii) non-formal education (NFE), providing pathways for transition into the formal system. Specifically, DG ECHO will consider supporting education activities in refugee camps that meet following criteria:

- a. Focus on primary and secondary levels of education with priority on enrolment of out-of-school children, particularly out-of-school girls also in the secondary education.
- b. Interventions aimed at addressing the specific learning needs of the most vulnerable children particularly children with disabilities, UASC, girls that is informed by a clear assessment of the barriers to their access to education (enrollment and continuous learning at primary and secondary level).
- c. Increasing access to accelerated learning opportunities, while ensuring appropriate transition to formal learning or acquisition of relevant certification. Partners must demonstrate actions towards enabling a harmonized approach to non-formal learning services.
- d. Provision of teaching and learning materials based on approved national curriculum.
- e. Interventions aimed at increasing absorption capacity of schools (including construction of classrooms) may be considered and the partner must demonstrate complementary resources to enable continuity of service delivery (infrastructure maintenance, HR costs, etc.).
- f. Activities geared towards enhancing linkages between child protection and education at school level. MHPSS services for children at schools should be integrated well in education programming.

**Food Security and Livelihoods:** DG ECHO will prioritise unrestricted cash to ensure a harmonised approach and appropriate accountability systems. In the refugee settings, inter sectoral coordination as well as linkages with development actors on the use of multipurpose cash transfers (MPCT) to address multiple basic needs is preferred, with the transfer value calculated accordingly. DG ECHO will consider the use of common cash delivery platforms.

**Health and Nutrition:** DG ECHO will continue to support the provision lifesaving health and integrated nutrition programming in the refugee camps and encourage the implementation of innovative approaches such as the surge model, combined protocols for malnutrition management, family MUAC etc.

**Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Shelter & Settlement (S&S):** Interventions will be limited to emergency response in case of unforeseen newly affected population and contingency planning in refugee camps as part of a multi-sector response to address unforeseen new arrival of refugees and natural hazard.

Cash should be considered as the privileged modality wherever local supplier have the capacity to provide the required level of service. Its appropriateness should nevertheless be

documented during the implementation of the action, particularly if included as part of a multi-purpose cash transfer initiative.

#### **d) Somalia:**

##### **Strategic priorities and modalities**

Life-saving action through emergency response for populations recently displaced by acute crises (conflict or natural disasters) or exposed to high levels of food insecurity (IPC 3+) or outbreaks of epidemics remain the main strategic focus. Vulnerability assessments should be based on commonly defined and agreed vulnerability criteria through clusters, when available. Innovative and safe ways of accessing hard-to-reach populations will be considered. Partners are expected to use contextual comprehensive analysis to identify the needs and justify geographical targeting. Most crises in Somalia result in displacement undermining the food security, livelihoods and access to basic services of the affected populations.

**Geographic Prioritisation and Targeting:** This will be based on the ability to access the most vulnerable populations. A specific focus will be given to populations in IPC 4 hotspots and hard-to-reach areas, while maintaining coverage for populations exposed to high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC 3+). The longer-term protracted IDPs or other structural vulnerable populations will only be considered on a case-by-case basis, for short term interventions, with a clear plan for their inclusion in longer-term development plans, such as development-led social safety net / social protection schemes, or with another defined exit strategy.

**Returns:** Support to local integration and return of displaced populations (incl. refugee returns) may be considered. Such returns must be safe, voluntary, informed, dignified and sustainable. The policy environment in Kenya may be a push factor, potentially prompting unsafe and unsustainable returns, when the overall conditions for return in Somalia are not deemed conducive by humanitarian protection standards. Actions that continue to monitor the conditions for IDPs and refugees' returns, based on the principles of voluntariness, safety and dignity, informed decision and free choice of final destination will be considered. Advocacy for principled returns may be supported and as part of the monitoring of conditions, actions that includes post-returns monitoring and protection risk analysis of returnees will be prioritised.

**Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) Transfers and Shock-Responsive Safety Nets (SRSNs):** MPC, through mobile money, continues to be the **main modality for life-saving action** and to meet multiple basic needs, focused on displacement and on IPC3+ areas based on stringent humanitarian targeting criteria. However, when duly justified, other modalities or food security or livelihoods activities, may be considered as long as they continue to **focus on acute and severe food assistance needs**, and ensure adequate humanitarian outcomes for priority households with severe food insecurity indicators.

Where feasible, MPC should complement larger recovery/resilience building programmes and SRSNs programmes, such as EU/SAGAL and WB/Baxnaano, with clear definitions of geographical and household-level targeting and prioritise areas outside of development-led social safety nets. DG ECHO will consider complementing the shock-responsive



components of existing SNs, when humanitarian added-value and humanitarian outcomes can be demonstrated. Inclusivity must be ensured (minimising exclusion errors), when working in complementarity to SRSNs. Partners should consider the Government's Social Protection Strategy where humanitarian MPC assistance can advantageously transition from a MPC to a SRSN approach as part of longer-term social protection.

SRSNs should build on learning on Early Warning and Early Action generated to date through ECHO funding and contribute to government system-building. MPC and SRSNs transfer values should be harmonised and coherent and build on learning from the Household Economy Analysis (HEA) study. MPC and SRSNs should be complemented **by referral pathways to basic social services**. The use of the cash transfer modality to reach sector outcomes will be encouraged in sectors such as EiE, Protection and WASH.

**Early Response Capacity:** Strengthening the coordination and complementarity with others emergency preparedness & response mechanisms (e.g., SRSNs) need to be considered. The systematic inclusion in relevant actions of Crisis Modifiers (CMs) have proven effective and should be continued. Preparedness and prepositioning, through common pipelines or support to access 'hard-to-reach' areas, that increases timeliness and effectiveness of response will be considered. Protection concerns arising from acute shocks must be duly considered and integrated. Stand-alone community-based preparedness/contingency planning will not be funded.

**Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP):** AAP remains a focus area of high priority. Existing individual, agency-based AAP systems, needs to be complemented by a common collective AAP system. DG-ECHO will consider inclusion of support to a collective AAP system as an added specific result in an appropriate action where DG-ECHO's financing tool is feasible and adding value.

## Sectoral priorities

**Protection:** DG ECHO will consider supporting protection standalone programming. Priority will be given to actions aimed at monitoring protection violations, including evictions, addressing life-threatening protection risks as well as advocacy. Prevention measures will be considered if their design results to concrete protection outcomes (or progress) within the timeframe of the action and are linked to prevention of increased protection risks caused by the crises.

All protection actions, irrespective of whether they are standalone or integrated actions must include a **protection risk analysis**. Partners should be able to clearly **articulate and follow up protection outcomes** at both individual and community levels. Priority will be given to:

- a. ensuring fair and equitable access to humanitarian aid and reaching minority communities; protection of civilian analysis and programming;
- b. supporting victims assistance and community-based protection (GBV, CAAFAG, etc.);
- c. providing legal aid to fair and equitable access to justice;
- d. data collection, advocacy and protection monitoring of minorities, displaced, evictees, returnees, etc.;
- e. response to eviction and case management for protection cases.

Proposals will be assessed on their quality and expected **tangible humanitarian protection outcomes**. Assistance programmes to **protracted refugee situations will not be funded**.

**Health & Nutrition – Integrated Comprehensive Response:** Support to the health system for life-saving activities will be considered in areas hosting large concentrations of IDPs and newly acute displacements, as well as areas with crises-related critical health and nutrition gaps.

Support to health and nutrition programmes should include both primary and secondary care, integration of health and nutrition services, reinforcement of hygiene promotion, and should ensure free access to curative and preventative services for pathologies linked to avoidable mortality and morbidity and exacerbated by crises. The integration of clinical response to GBV in all health services is mandatory. Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene practices at health/nutrition centre level can be supported when justified by high needs. We recommend partners to follow a common/coordinated approach to support national health programmes, with a joint strategy and logical framework.

#### **Education in Emergencies (EiE) – For Communities affected by Displacement:**

EiE actions will focus on reaching displaced out-of-school boys and girls with relevant primary formal or non-formal education, including accelerated and catch-up programmes informed by a comprehensive context analysis. The objective is to restore education and learning as soon as possible and preferable within 3 months of education disruption due to displacement or other crises. Follow-up of restoration of education within the action or between follow-on actions are important.

EiE actions should prioritise:

- a. access, enrolment and retention;
- b. the quality of education and improved learning outcomes;
- c. integration of child protection (including prevention and response to GBV risks).

Efforts should be made to support the relevant approved curriculum in schools. Common supply pipeline for enhanced emergency response may be supported, provided it ensures preparedness and early response.

Actions must advocate and implement appropriate measures to ensure learning environments are secure and safe, and protected from attacks. Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene practices at school level can be supported when justified by high needs.

Partners should establish linkages for beneficiaries to secondary education and TVET, teacher training, capacity building of education authorities and curriculum development and dissemination as part of Nexus.

**Water and Sanitation (WASH):** Interventions will focus on emergency response. Integrated WASH interventions will be considered if they have a focus on areas with increased exposure to Acute Watery Diarrhoea / Cholera, high malnutrition rates or acute high-density displacement camps. The community management aspect of water provision systems must be included with strong emphasis on self-reliance and sustainability. Sectoral cash / MPC modality are prioritised wherever local suppliers have the capacity to

provide the required level of service. Its appropriateness and quality should, nevertheless, be documented, particularly if included as part of a MPC assistance.

**Disaster Preparedness (DP):** DG-ECHO will consider further strengthening and expansion of the DP action in Somalia concerning **early warning, preparedness and response capacity to floods**. DP action improving flood-related disaster preparedness through capacity building, knowledge transfer and strengthening of locally owned systems by:

- a. the proper dissemination of flood warning/mitigation/prevention information;
- b. the institutionalised and systemic preparedness and response capacity to recurrent floods, may be expanded to urban / peri-urban areas along the Juba River basin (Dollow, Luuq, Bardheere).

The focus of an action will continue to be on:

- a. Strengthening Early Warning Systems that enable individuals, communities, government, private sector to take timely action to reduce disaster risks in advance of floods;
- b. National, local and community floods contingency planning (including an Early Action (EA) / Anticipatory Action (AA) framework comprising triggers, SOPs and identification of relevant EA / AA response) for an effective and efficient management of responses;
- c. Strengthening logistics preparedness to improve first responders' capacity at national and local level with pre-positioning of flood preparedness items and small-scale infrastructure works;
- d. Strengthening the capacity of first responders in terms of skills, tools, institutional and operational capacities to implement effective and timely responses.

Strategic collaboration on prevention of floods and river management with development actors will be required from partners as part of the DP strategy, e.g., through the Nexus Flood Task Force. Coordination and complementarity with other emergency preparedness & response mechanisms (e.g., CMs, SRSNs) must be considered.