

**TECHNICAL ANNEX****GREAT LAKES<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).

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<sup>1</sup> The Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) for the Great Lakes’ region covers the following countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Republic of Congo (Congo), Rwanda and Tanzania.

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

## 2. FINANCIAL INFO

Indicative Allocation<sup>3</sup>: **EUR 67 415 568,96**<sup>4</sup> of which an indicative amount of EUR 6 000 000 for Education in Emergencies (indicative EiE amount for the DRC: EUR 5 000 000 and indicative EiE amount for Burundi: EUR 1 000 000).

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 3 300 000 will be dedicated to these Programmatic Partnerships in 2022. In addition, new Programmatic Partnerships could be signed in 2022 with partners under indirect management. Part of the allocation of this HIP could therefore also be attributed to these new pilot Partnerships.

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

Countries	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 / Complementar y activities	TOTAL
DRC and Great Lakes region	56 833 604,96	n/a	1 000 000	n/a	57 833 604,96
Burundi regional situation (Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania)	9 000 000	n/a	n/a	n/a	9 000 000
Programmatic Partnership Regional flexibility reserve*	350 000				350 000
Programmatic Partnership Coordination & Visibility*	231 964				231 964

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

<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*

### 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's organisational capacities. The proposals should specify the breakdown between the different country allocations.

#### 4. ADMINISTRATIVE INFO

##### Allocation round 1

## a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 53 000 000.

## b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: Humanitarian aid interventions relating to the Great Lakes' region, in particular the DRC and to the Burundi crisis context (Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania); Education in Emergencies' interventions in the DRC and in the Burundi crisis context; disaster preparedness action in the DRC.

c) Costs will be eligible<sup>6</sup> from **01/01/2022**d) 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 intervention. 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)<sup>7</sup>. Education in emergencies' actions should have an initial duration of at least 24 months, unless there is a needs- or context-based justification for a shorter duration.e) Potential partners<sup>8</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners

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

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

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

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

f) Information to be provided: Single Form or modifications requests of on-going actions<sup>9</sup>

g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: **11/01/2022**

#### Allocation round 2

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 8 000 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: Rapid response interventions (focusing on multi-purpose cash, shelter, NFI, WASH) as well as protection and health services (by ICRC) related to the insecurity in the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu in the DRC.
- c) Costs will be eligible<sup>10</sup> from **01/01/2022**.
- d) Duration: 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.
- e) Pre-identified partners: (1) Rapid response mechanism “Strategic Assistance for Emergency Response (SAFER)”<sup>11</sup>; (2) International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which is already operating on the ground and best placed for protection and health services.
- f) Information to be provided: Modification request of on-going action, using APPEL.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: **16/08/2022**.

#### Allocation round 3

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 4 101 993.
- b) Costs will be eligible<sup>12</sup> from 01/04/2022
- c) Potential partner: IFRC. The funding will be allocated to the pilot Programmatic Partnership action ‘Accelerating local action in humanitarian and health crises’ in the following countries: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
- d) Information to be provided: Single form<sup>13</sup>

#### Allocation round 4

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 2 313 575,96

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<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.

<sup>11</sup> Run by a consortium of five NGOs: Acted, Concern, Mercy Corps, Norwegian Refugee Council and Solidarités Internationales.

<sup>12</sup> The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest. In case of amendments to existing agreements, the eligible date will however be the eligible date set in the initial agreement.

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

- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: Urgent water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) intervention in IDP settlements in the Nyiragongo health zone north of the city of Goma in North Kivu province (already facing cholera outbreaks).
- c) Costs will be eligible<sup>14</sup> from 01/01/2022 (as it concerns a modification request of an ongoing action/contract)
- d) Pre-identified partner: UNICEF, in the lead of the WASH cluster, already running a well-functioning cholera preparedness and mitigation programme in the DRC and already present with a WASH action at the IDP sites north of Goma.
- e) Information to be provided: Modification request of on-going action, using APPEL.
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 21/12/2022

#### **4.1. Operational requirements:**

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

- 1) Relevance
  - How relevant is the proposed intervention and its compliance with the objectives of the HIP?
  - Has a joint needs' assessment been used for the proposed intervention (if existing)?
  - Has the proposed intervention been coordinated with other relevant humanitarian actors or with others projects implemented in the same area?
  - Does the partner has proposed a referral system for needs, which will not be covered by itself?
- 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

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<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.

- 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?<sup>15</sup>

In case of actions ongoing in the field, where DG ECHO is requested to fund the continuation thereof, a field visit may be conducted by the 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. For **Education in Emergencies**’ actions, priority will be given to funding projects that target at least 50% girls, unless there is a context-based justification for different targeting. All EiE actions should have a minimum duration of 24 months unless there is a needs- or context-based justification for a shorter duration.

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

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

### **Transfer modalities**

The choice of 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

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<sup>15</sup> In accordance with the relevant section of the Single Form guidelines (section10)

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 (except health) where these can appropriately be met through market, complemented by service provision, other transfer modalities, and timely referrals, to meet specific sectoral outcomes. The value and frequency of cash assistance should be sufficient to cover or contribute to recurrent basic needs or other sector-specific needs that are not recurrent basic needs, and should be complemented by other relevant sectoral interventions. Cash assistance should be risk informed and targeted based on **socio-economic vulnerability** and the **protection concerns** of individuals and groups.

DG ECHO promotes **common programming** 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 common 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 Ratio', alongside analysis of the effectiveness of the overall humanitarian response.

The sectorial and multi-sectorial outcomes of cash programmes should be monitored against internationally accepted norms and 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.

Post-distribution monitoring should assess the use of MPC by collecting information on standard indicators: the repartition of the MPC in the 'Standard Minimum Expenditure Basket', the evolution of the food consumption standard and the indicator of the use of survival strategies, as well as assessing the evolution of the lengths of time beneficiaries are able to cover their basic needs with the support received and to analyse and document how those basic needs will be covered after this period.

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

## **STRENGTHENING EARLY RESPONSE CAPACITY**

The Great Lakes' region is characterised by recurrent natural and human induced, rapid and slow onset crises. In addition to the expected inherent adaptability of all humanitarian partners, DG ECHO will systematically address early response in all its activities as follows:

### Humanitarian Aid Budget Line

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

Emergency/Rapid Response Mechanisms (ERM/RRM) are stand-alone actions pooling capacities of often-different partners for improved and more coordinated preparedness and



early response, guided by early warning and contingency plans. ERM/RRM are designed to provide initial life-saving multipurpose assistance when other response mechanisms are not yet in place. ERM/RRM are mostly used for rapid onset crises. For slow on-set disasters, objective indicators with thresholds for engagement and disengagement should be defined in coordination with other stakeholders, including State authorities.

ERM/RRM should be used as a last resort option when no aid organisations are present in a certain area or in case partners in the affected location(s) do not have the capacity to respond to a new, emerging shock. When possible, the ERM/RRM should come in support to first line responders already active in the area. The duration of the ERM/RRM intervention should be long enough to have a first impact.

## (2) Flexibility embedded into on-going actions

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 (“crisis within a crisis”). Flexibility measures can be triggered to provide an 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 most likely and worst scenarios. Partners should develop a detailed preparedness and response plan (considering prepositioning of stocks, surge staff, and sectors of intervention) with clear thresholds and triggers to guide early actions.

ERM/RRM and other 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/triggers 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 a defined number persons and/or needs assessment within a defined number of days from the displacement/disaster/alert/exceeded triggers).

The following indicators to measure rapidity of response are encouraged.

- ✓ *“Number of people covered by early action/contingency plans” (KRI);*
- ✓ *“Number of days between the crisis and/or alert and the start of the response” (target: to be adapted according to the country context and the modality used);*
- ✓ *“% of the targeted population assisted within a defined number of weeks after the beginning of the response” (target: to be adapted according to the country context and the modality used);*
- ✓ *Protection should also be mainstreamed across the RRM. The use of the protection mainstreaming KOI indicator (“% of beneficiaries, disaggregated by sex, age, and disability”), reporting that humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable, and participatory manner”), and toolkit is recommended.*

When activating the crisis modifier (CM), partners shall inform the DG ECHO country office and provide basic information to justify the response, such as the context of the crisis, estimated number of beneficiaries and the coordination of the response with others local partners. If funds budgeted under the CM result are not used, the partner shall

propose to DG ECHO how to reallocate the resources, e.g. in the interim report, but not later than one month before the end of the action.

#### Disaster Preparedness Budget Line

In addition to ERM/RRM and flexibility measures noted above, DG ECHO supports targeted disaster preparedness actions under a specific ‘Disaster Preparedness Budget Line’. For the 2022 HIP, this will apply to the DRC. Additional information can be found in the specific country section. All disaster preparedness actions should incorporate an overall protection approach in the foreseen response to disasters.

#### **Refugees: Protracted crises versus new displacement**

DG ECHO’s support for the refugee response in the Great Lakes’ region will in principle focus on more recent displacements (less than 18 months). For protracted situations, DG ECHO strongly promotes UNHCR's Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) approach in line with the EU Communication on Forced Displacement and Development<sup>16</sup>, aiming at sharing responsibility for crises-affected populations with development actors on protracted refugee settings whenever possible. In protracted situations, DG ECHO may consider pilot projects primarily aimed at defining the initial analytical framework required to support durable solutions within a nexus approach with the objective to attract longer-term funding, e.g. multi-stakeholder area-based analysis to identify needs related to service-provision.

DG ECHO’s support to the refugee response will continue to focus on protection within a regional analysis and response.

#### **International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and humanitarian diplomacy**

DG ECHO aims at strengthening a humanitarian protection advocacy strategy by becoming a key EU interlocutor on humanitarian diplomacy and engagement in IHL within multilateral processes and institutions. As such, DG ECHO intends to increase its commitment to support partners – who have the mandate and the capacity – to further engage in the contextualisation of International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian standards at national and regional level, to improve the protection of civilians in armed conflict. IHL advocacy and dissemination among civil-military authorities, parties to conflict, humanitarian actors and communities in the objective to remind the legal obligations towards IHL will be supported. To improve meaningful, safe and dignified access to services for civilian populations affected by conflict, DG ECHO will strengthen the protection of medical missions and against attacks and/or occupation of schools, the protection of children from recruitment into armed groups and/or armed forces, and will support the prevention and response to gender-based violence.

#### **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 continuity of access to quality and sustainable services, including shock-responsive safety nets for crisis-affected populations, addressing the root causes of humanitarian crises.

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<sup>16</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/refugees-idp/Communication\\_Forced\\_Displacement\\_Development\\_2016.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/refugees-idp/Communication_Forced_Displacement_Development_2016.pdf)

In this context, DG ECHO's partners are expected to explore possibilities to engage with national systems at different levels, especially related to basic social services (health, nutrition, WASH, education, protection), and direct (cash) transfers to households, as a way of strengthening existing systems in crisis-settings and beyond. Specifically, DG ECHO sees cash assistance as an entry point for the nexus and expects humanitarian cash programmes to contribute to building shock-responsive social protection systems, when possible. Partners are expected to share good practice examples of humanitarian interventions for advocacy and dialogue at national level to trigger further long-term investments by development actors, aiming at commitments for the global sustainable development goals.

At a broader level, DG ECHO together with other donors, may consider supporting the development of an HDP nexus framework and roadmap as part of a broad interagency initiative, which, based on initial needs and situation analyses, aims at providing guidance to actors concerning their respective potential contribution to the achievement of the overall common goal (related to the continuity of service provision to crises-affected populations), at programmatic as well as advocacy and political dialogue level, while taking the comparative advantage, mandates and principles of the different actors into account, thereby facilitating a division of tasks among different actors.

In the context of protracted forced displacement, actions aimed at piloting durable solutions at all levels, i.e. physical, material and legal safety and whatever the displacement pathway may be (return, relocation, local integration), must ensure complementarity and integration with existing durable solution programmes supported by development partners. Such actions shall be funded by DG ECHO only when proven to be voluntary, safe and secure, dignified, informed and sustainable, and in full respect of humanitarian principles and international guiding principles. DG ECHO may consider seed funding for pilot projects primarily aimed at defining the initial analytical framework required to support durable solutions within a nexus approach with the objective to attract longer-term funding, e.g. multi-stakeholder area-based analysis to identify needs related to service provision.

DG ECHO will focus on nexus projects in priority areas defined in the HIP.

### **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>17</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 a 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 and supply chain, e.g. by working more closely with local actors to decrease long distance transport.

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<sup>17</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)

## Visibility and Communication

Partners are expected to ensure full compliance with visibility requirements and to acknowledge the funding role of the EU/European Commission (DG ECHO), as set out in the applicable contractual arrangements. DG ECHO's visibility guidelines are available at: <https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/visibility>. The guidelines also explain the three main visibility and communication options available to partners when submitting project proposals, and possible budgets.

### ***4.1.2.1. Sector-Specific Priorities***

#### **Protection**

- DG ECHO will address urgent crisis-induced needs in the Great Lakes with protection as an entry point for all sectors and programmes to guarantee the access to humanitarian aid for people of concern. It will support a humanitarian response that ensures protection-integrated programming and protection mainstreaming.
- To safeguard the centrality of protection, partners should mainstream protection and use protection-sensitive targeting across other sectors, using gender and age markers. Access to basic services should be in line with a do-no-harm approach, meaningful access, accountability and participation. Protection mainstreaming aspects should be monitored using specific impact indicators at objective level (KOI) to measure the impact of the intervention. DG ECHO recommends referring to the recent guidance note and toolkit available online for reference.<sup>18</sup>
- Interventions to strengthen protection of civilians exposed to violence, abuse, exploitation and/or neglect will be supported, including gender-based violence, child protection and violence in general. Services could cover the following activities: (i) protection and cross-border monitoring and information management system; (ii) comprehensive (age/gender sensitive) case management and/or referral; (iii) mental health and psychosocial support and legal assistance, when appropriate; (iv) cash transfer interventions (with a focus on protection needs) and individual protection assistance for vulnerable persons; (v) particular gaps in civil documentation; (vi) liaison with social protection mechanisms, especially in areas of returns, when possible; (vii) community-based protection approaches could be strengthened through community self-protection plans against any upsurge of violence, community structures and protection networks, mapping of shock-responsive social care structures and mechanisms in conflict-affected settings (include mapping of mobile response and static response capabilities); public dissemination of basic information on protection risks through campaigns, social media, outreach and community mobilisation. New methodologies and innovative approaches should be explored to engage with humanitarian-development-peace nexus approaches.
- Humanitarian advocacy on protection and respect of IHL should be embedded in the overall protection strategy of the organisation.

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<sup>18</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/default/files/dg\\_echo\\_protection\\_mainstreaming\\_indicator\\_-\\_technical\\_guidance.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/default/files/dg_echo_protection_mainstreaming_indicator_-_technical_guidance.pdf)

**Health**

- Complementary to a basic needs' approach towards individual beneficiaries, DG ECHO will focus on access to quality essential (public) services, surveillance and monitoring of the overall health, its determinants, and threats to affected communities.
- When providing humanitarian assistance in the health sector, main causes of excess morbidity and mortality, especially those directly related to the crisis, need to be addressed. Specific attention in the assessment and response needs to go to nutrition, referral services (life-threatening conditions); infection prevention and control measures; gender-based violence; maternal, child and neonatal healthcare and mental health.
- Quality healthcare in humanitarian settings should, to the extent possible, be provided free at the point of delivery.
- Direct involvement of humanitarian organisations in the provision of health care is mandatory.
- A timely response to epidemics remains a regional priority.
- No dedicated funding is envisaged under this HIP for the response to COVID-19, but projects funded under this HIP should be COVID-19 sensitive.
- Procurement and distribution of medicines, nutritional products and medical material should be compliant with DG ECHO procedures. Sound management of these supplies (including performance indicators) should be documented in proposals.
- The use of digital technology is encouraged. All supported health services should be reported on through the national DHIS2 dBase.
- Partners should be looking into ways to complement actions funded through global health initiatives and development actors, and prevent parallel actions.
- Investment in the documentation of the impact of a crisis on the health status of affected communities and the impact evaluation of the intervention (reduction of excess morbidity and mortality; life-saving approaches) is encouraged.

**Nutrition**

- An intervention's entry point is established on the basis of exceeding the emergency thresholds for global acute malnutrition and/or a high probability that those levels will be exceeded in the short term such as in case of aggravating factors (such as displacement, natural disaster, disease outbreak).
- All nutrition needs' analysis must be supported by surveys, studies and other technically sound evidence.
- Direct involvement of humanitarian organisations in the provision of nutritional care is mandatory.
- DG ECHO funding will prioritise severe acute malnutrition (SAM), but this could be extended in some cases to the continuum of care for moderately acutely malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women. Standalone services for moderate acute malnutrition will not be considered for funding.

- The treatment of acute malnutrition and any related medical complications should be integrated in existing health systems and must be provided to the beneficiaries free of charge.
- Activities undertaken in all sectors should aim at optimising impact on the nutrition status of target communities to ensure a holistic and multi-sectoral approach for preventing under-nutrition and reducing risk of malnutrition crises.

### **Humanitarian food assistance**

- Food assistance interventions need to be life-saving or protect productive assets as a response to severe, transitory food insecurity due to natural and/or man-made disasters.
- Food assistance interventions should target the most severely food insecure as a priority (people in IPC phase 3 or above). Targeting methodologies – both geographical and at household level – should have food security indicators as an entry point. The use of an household economy approach for community-based targeting or similar methodologies are encouraged. Beneficiary feedback and verification mechanisms must be in place.
- Food assistance needs for newly displaced populations should be prioritised in the context of displacement. Immediate blanket assistance should be provided upon arrival. To obtain the desired impact on population's food security situation, partners should ensure the provision of sufficient and quality food assistance for a sufficient period of time (ideally at least three monthly rations) to allow households to regain self-sufficiency.
- The specific needs of groups most vulnerable to undernutrition should be addressed; in particular, the provision of complementary food for children aged from six to 24 months should be considered.
- Implementing partners who provide in-kind food products should ensure the quality and safety of the products. In-kind modalities should be the last resort in duly justified circumstances. A thorough analysis of the response including the modality selected must be carried out.
- As a principle, food assistance support should be unconditional, given the vulnerability of targeted populations. Any conditionality should be duly justified and adapted according to the vulnerabilities of the targeted group (adapted e.g. to women with young children) or in consideration of the agricultural season.
- When using (multi-purpose) cash to respond to food needs, partners must justify the transfer value (possibly related to the minimum expenditure basket). This should be based on a sound methodology and in coordination with other actors, in particular the food security and cash working groups. It is to be noted that people who were very recently displaced might have needs that surpass the monthly value of the established minimum expenditure basket's amount.
- Partners must participate in, contribute to and reinforce existing food security information systems.

### **Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)**

- Sector coverage: all WASH-related actions should be included within a WASH-related result (including WASH-related action in support of other sectors such as

health). All WASH sub-sectors must be addressed unless the related needs are already covered (by local capacities or other humanitarian actors) or in case the lack of existing services does not represent a public health emergency or threat. In all cases, the coverage of different sub-sectors should be monitored by the partner.

- Cash modalities: all WASH sector support, including services accessed through a cash modality, must be monitored using WASH-related KRIs. The same principle applies to multi-purpose cash transfers to show whether this approach is suitable to achieve the minimum standards for the WASH sector.
- Mainstreaming of protection-related concerns should be envisaged under a do-no-harm perspective. All DG ECHO-supported WASH interventions must mainstream COVID-19 measures such as population awareness and infection, prevention and control measures, whenever necessary.
- Cholera-related WASH response must complement the health response for affected populations focussing on risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) and interventions aiming at preventing further contamination through disinfection of potential sources of contamination and strengthening access to safe water and hygiene to affected households and public places.
- COVID-19 related WASH response must be aligned with the national response strategy. Related interventions should follow the same logic as for a cholera response: RCCE and access to safe water and hygiene.

### **Shelter and settlements (S&S)**

- Sector coverage: S&S include not only access to minimum accommodation, but also the monitoring of the access of all basic services (protection, health, etc.) in the settlements of the targeted populations. All shelter and settlement-related activities should be included in an S&S-related result. All S&S subsectors must be addressed unless the related needs are already covered (either by local capacities or other humanitarian actors) or in case the lack of existing services does not represent a public health emergency or threat. In all cases, the coverage of the different sub-sectors should be monitored by the partner.
- Cash modality: All S&S sector support, including services accessed through a cash modality must be monitored using S&S-related KRIs. The same principle applies to multi-purpose cash transfers' result to highlight whether this approach is suitable to achieve the minimum standards for the S&S sector.
- Mainstreaming of protection-related concerns should be envisaged under a do-no-harm perspective. All DG ECHO-supported interventions must mainstream COVID-19 measures such as population awareness and infection, prevention and control measures wherever necessary.

### **Education in Emergencies (EiE)**

- EiE interventions should target the most vulnerable children, displaced or affected by conflict, and more specifically out-of-school and dropout boys and girls, over-age children, through formal and non-formal education opportunities. All EiE actions should target a minimum of 50% girls.
- Project proposals should aim at increasing access to primary formal and non-formal education opportunities for vulnerable children, with priority given to IDPs, refugees, returnees and asylum seekers where relevant. Interventions should tackle

identified barriers to education, i.e. through provision of teaching and learning material, support and compensation to teaching personnel, provision of transitional learning spaces or light school building rehabilitation, establishment of, or support to, already existing non-formal education (NFE) programmes<sup>19</sup>, provision of civil documentation required to access formal education system.

- Project proposals should also aim at increasing education quality and learning outcomes and be aligned with the school academic year to avoid any further disruptions (all EiE actions should have a minimum duration of 24 months unless there is a needs- or context-based justification for a shorter duration).
- Retention and transition of children in the next school year and cycle should be measured, especially in the context of (post) COVID-19 and related schools' closures. Teachers and other education personnel should be supported with relevant and tailored professional development opportunities through interventions that will also contribute to increased motivation and decreased turnover.
- The provision of lifesaving skills and messages will be considered for funding only when they are part of a broader intervention and if developed on the basis of a thorough needs' assessment. For this specific component, coordination and active collaboration with agencies working in other sectors is highly encouraged.
- Child safeguarding mechanisms must be established and must be built upon a sound risk analysis and should address the most life-threatening protection risks. Proposed actions should promote protection of the schools from attacks and support the implementation of the 'Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict'<sup>20</sup>.
- Integrated programming of EiE and child protection is strongly recommended to maximize the impact of the intervention in each conflicted-affected context, including referral systems and/or provision of psychosocial support and MHPSS services.<sup>21</sup>

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

##### **(a) Democratic Republic of Congo**

##### **Humanitarian assistance**

Sectorial priorities highlighted earlier in this document must be considered when designing the response. In addition, taking into consideration the deterioration of the security context in the eastern part of the DRC and the increase of internal displacement and protection needs, DG ECHO will focus its intervention on:

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<sup>19</sup> For NFE programmes, partners are strongly encouraged to use the definitions, tools and guidance developed by the Accelerated Education Working Group: <https://inee.org/collections/accelerated-education>

<sup>20</sup> See: [http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/\\_assets/files/aors/protection\\_mainstreaming/Protection\\_Mainstreaming\\_Training\\_Package\\_SECTORGUIDANCE\\_November\\_2014.pdf](http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/_assets/files/aors/protection_mainstreaming/Protection_Mainstreaming_Training_Package_SECTORGUIDANCE_November_2014.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> DG ECHO EiE Policy on the need of protection expertise for specialized protection services: [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/news/190328%20SWD%20EiE%20in%20EU-funded%20Humanitarian%20Aid%20Operations%20SWD\(2019\)150%20final.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/news/190328%20SWD%20EiE%20in%20EU-funded%20Humanitarian%20Aid%20Operations%20SWD(2019)150%20final.pdf)



- Supporting a multi-sectorial response/integrated programming aiming at addressing the basic needs of conflict-affected populations with protection as an entry point. This includes IDP, returnees and host communities.
- Projects should be flexible in order to swiftly respond or support an emergency response to any new emerging shock occurring in the area of their operations (crisis modifier);
- Strengthening early response capacity, in particular in areas of DG ECHO supported project implementation. This mechanism should be flexible, delivery and geographically focused and used as a last resort;
- Dissemination and advocacy of IHL and IHRL;
- Evaluation to inform on specific dynamics of a situation, including root causes of on-going crises and protection risks and needs' analysis;
- Humanitarian surveillance through humanitarian information management and humanitarian response coordination remains a priority;
- Initiatives to start moving towards durable solutions for IDPs in Tanganyika can be considered under the programmatic partnership initiative.

Mainstreaming of core protection principles is compulsory in each action funded. Intervention should comply with cluster specific priorities described in this document and should include nexus opportunities in particular with development and stabilisation actors whenever possible.

### **Education in Emergencies (EiE)**

DG ECHO's will implement EiE programming in conflict-affected areas to complement other sectorial DG ECHO interventions in order to provide a full package support. DG ECHO encourages EiE and child protection programming to restore a protective and safe learning environment for children. The overall response should address the six grave violations against children in armed conflict.<sup>22</sup>

### **Disaster Preparedness (DP)**

In continuation of DG ECHO's funding for disaster preparedness in 2021, any supported intervention should strengthen the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of local communities in South Kivu and Maniema provinces for both natural and man-made disasters. The community-based disaster preparedness should prepare the targeted communities in their comprehensive analysis of risks, establishing an efficient community-based early warning system and developing community contingency plans or standard operating procedures, in order to reduce the impact of disasters and enhance self-response capacities. In the long run, DP work should aim at increasingly complementing – and finally replacing – INGO-managed humanitarian rapid response mechanisms, with local stakeholders taking over short term life-saving interventions – improving thereby the level of community preparedness, the speed of the response (timely emergency response) and cost-effectiveness.

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<sup>22</sup> Killing and maiming of children; recruitment or use of children as soldiers; sexual violence against children; abduction of children; attacks against schools or hospitals; denial of humanitarian access for children. See: <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/six-grave-violations/>

**(b) Burundi crisis (Burundi / Tanzania / Rwanda / DRC)****Humanitarian assistance**

DG ECHO will consider interventions that focus on protection of refugees at regional level and returnees (including spontaneous returnees) in Burundi in order to ensure their protection at the different steps of their displacement, to enhance cross-border follow-up of displaced people, and to address needs for regional coordination and advocacy. This will include documentation and protection monitoring, community-based interventions enhancing social cohesion (refugees, returnees, IDPs, host communities), prevention and assistance to victims of violence (including GBV and MHPSS), child protection (UAMs, CAAC, child at risks/affected by psychosocial distress,), ensuring refugees access to basic services through civil and legal documents.

In preparation of the humanitarian aid exit strategy within the coming years, interventions should establish a link with development actors to set up durable solutions for returnees and host communities as well as ensure inclusion of long-term refugees into development programmes, in line with the CRRF and the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

Food assistance will be considered for camp-based refugees who do not have access to livelihood opportunities. Other sectors of intervention (such as WASH and livelihoods) should be part of a broader protection mainstreaming objective/outcome. Humanitarian surveillance in Burundi through humanitarian information management and humanitarian response coordination remains a priority.

**Education in Emergencies**

DG ECHO will limit its support to increase access to education for returnees and host communities in high return areas in Burundi. This will include addressing barriers faced by children in (re-) entering education, such as administrative barriers including birth certificates to register for education services, school materials and equipment, and if needed, construction of additional classrooms, including adequate WASH access, in order to accommodate the increasing number of students. EiE actions must include child protection responses, including psychosocial support and referral pathways/case management where possible.

**(c) Republic of Congo**

Unless a new humanitarian crisis emerges, DG ECHO remains in surveillance mode.