

**TECHNICAL ANNEX****LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN****FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION**

The provisions of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2023/01000 and the General Conditions of the Agreement with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

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

**1. CONTACTS**

Operational Unit in charge                      DG ECHO<sup>1</sup>/D.4

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

## 2. FINANCIAL INFO

Indicative Allocation<sup>2</sup>: **EUR 81 000 000** of which an indicative amount of **EUR 11 400 000** for Education in Emergencies.

For units with ongoing pilot Programmatic Partnerships:

In line with DG ECHO's commitment under the Grand Bargain initiative, pilot Programmatic Partnerships have been launched in 2020, 2021 and 2022 with a limited number of partners. A maximum amount of **EUR 950 000** will be dedicated to these Programmatic Partnerships in 2023.

Indicative breakdown per Actions as per Worldwide Decision (in euros)<sup>3</sup>:

Country(ies)	Action (a) Man-made crises and natural hazards	Action (b) Initial emergency response/small- scale/epidemics	Action (c) Disaster Preparedness	Actions (d) to (f) Transport / Complementary activities	TOTAL
Venezuela	31 000 000		1 000 000		32 000 000
Colombia	10 000 000		1 500 000		11 500 000
Central America	6 500 000		4 500 000		11 000 000
Haiti	6 000 000		2 500 000		8 500 000
Caribbean	500 000		4 000 000		4 500 000
South America	8 500 000		5 000 000		13 500 000

## 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).

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

<sup>3</sup> For flexibility and fast responsiveness purposes, this breakdown can be adjusted within certain limits based on newly arising needs.

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>4</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 4.1.2. of this Annex, as well as the applicant organisation's capacities. The proposals should specify the breakdown between the different country allocations.

#### 4. ADMINISTRATIVE INFO

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

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 32 000 000
  - Support to interventions addressing the humanitarian consequences of complex crises in Venezuela (up to EUR 28 000 000);
  - Education in Emergencies (up to EUR 3 000 000);
  - Up to EUR 1 000 000 for Disaster Preparedness
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023<sup>5</sup>
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 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 3e)<sup>6</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>7</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of ongoing actions<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</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>5</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>6</sup> Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

<sup>7</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 30/01/2023<sup>9</sup>

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

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 11 500 000
- Support to interventions addressing the humanitarian consequences of complex crises in Colombia (up to EUR 9 000 000);
  - Education in Emergencies (up to EUR 1 000 000);
  - Up to EUR 1 500 000 for Disaster Preparedness
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023<sup>10</sup>
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 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 3e)<sup>11</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>12</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions<sup>13</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 30/01/2023

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

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 11 000 000
- Support to interventions addressing the humanitarian consequences of complex crises in Central America and Mexico (up to EUR 3 500 000);

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

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

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

<sup>11</sup> Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

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

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

- Education in Emergencies (up to EUR 3 000 000);
  - Disaster Preparedness (up to EUR 4 500 000)
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023<sup>14</sup>
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 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 3e)<sup>15</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>16</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions<sup>17</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 30/01/2023<sup>18</sup>

#### **Allocation round 4 - Haiti**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 8 500 000
- Support to interventions addressing the humanitarian consequences of complex crises in Haiti (up to EUR 4 600 000);
  - Education in Emergencies (up to EUR 1 400 000);
  - Disaster Preparedness (up to EUR 2 500 000)
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023<sup>19</sup>

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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.

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

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

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

<sup>18</sup> The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, can be submitted as modification requests for the ongoing action with a time extension of up to 24 months and a total duration of the modified action of up to 48 months. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point 3e)<sup>20</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>21</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of ongoing actions<sup>22</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 30/01/2023.

### **Allocation round 5 - Caribbean**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 4 500 000
  - Support to interventions addressing the humanitarian consequences of complex crises in the Caribbean (up to EUR 500 000);
  - Up to EUR 4 000 000 for Disaster Preparedness
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023<sup>23</sup>
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 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

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<sup>19</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>20</sup> Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

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

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

<sup>23</sup> The 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.

HIP (see point 3e)<sup>24</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>25</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of ongoing actions<sup>26</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 20/02/2023.

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

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 13 500 000
  - Support to interventions addressing the humanitarian consequences of complex crises in South America (up to EUR 5 500 000);
  - Education in Emergencies (up to EUR 3 000 000);
  - Disaster Preparedness (up to EUR 5 000 000)
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023<sup>27</sup>
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 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 3e)<sup>28</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>29</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of ongoing actions<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

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

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

<sup>27</sup> The 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>28</sup> Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

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

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



- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 30/01/2023<sup>31</sup>

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

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

1) Relevance

- How relevant is the proposed intervention; is it compliant with the objectives of the HIP?
- Has a joint needs assessment been used for the proposed intervention (if existing)? Have other recent and comprehensive needs assessments been used?
- Has the proposed intervention been coordinated with other humanitarian actors?

2) Capacity and expertise

- Does the partner, with its implementing partners, have sufficient expertise (country / region and / or technical)?
- How does the partner contribute to developing/strengthening local capacity?

3) Methodology and feasibility

- Quality of the proposed response strategy, including intervention logic / logframe, output & outcome indicators, risks and challenges.
- Feasibility, including security and access constraints.
- Quality of the monitoring arrangements.

4) Coordination and relevant post-intervention elements

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

5) Cost-effectiveness/efficiency/transparency

- Does the proposed intervention display an appropriate relationship between the resources to employed, the activities to be undertaken and the objectives to be achieved?
- Is the breakdown of costs sufficiently documented/explained?<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

<sup>32</sup> In accordance with the relevant section of the Single Form guidelines (section10)

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

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

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

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

Regarding **logistics (meaning the entire supply chain)**, DG ECHO will support strategic solutions such as shared and / or common services, joint procurement, etc. if their cost-efficiency and benefit in increasing effectiveness and timeliness of the response is demonstrated, in line with DG ECHO's Humanitarian Logistics Policy. DG ECHO also encourages the application of the Humanitarian Logistics Policy more widely, in particular the key considerations set out in Annex 1: Framework for Operations.

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

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

## **ASSISTANCE MODALITIES**

Modality choice should be informed by a needs-based response and risk analysis, incorporating joint and timely market analysis, operational and environmental analyses. The use of cash should systematically be considered, across the variety of response mechanisms (anticipatory action, rapid response mechanisms, emergency responses, crisis modifiers, and shock-responsive social protection) funded by DG ECHO. All cash interventions should comply with [DG ECHO's cash thematic policy](#)<sup>33</sup>, including the sector-specific considerations in Annexe 3 of that document. In addition, programmes above EUR10m should comply with the large-scale cash guidance note.

DG ECHO promotes a common system and/or coordinated programming approaches to reduce fragmentation and avoid duplication and parallel ways of working. This includes better operational coordination, coordinated approaches to vulnerability-based targeting,

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<sup>33</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/thematic\\_policy\\_document\\_no\\_3\\_cash\\_transfers\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/thematic_policy_document_no_3_cash_transfers_en.pdf)

data interoperability (which respects data protection requirements) to facilitate deduplication and referrals, a common payment mechanism, a common feedback mechanism and a common results framework. DG ECHO will systematically assess the cost-efficiency of different modalities, using the Total Cost to Transfer Ratio (TCTR), alongside the analysis of effectiveness.

DG ECHO promotes, wherever appropriate, a single multipurpose cash (MPC) payment to meet recurrent basic needs, through a common payment mechanism, and timely referral pathways to meet specific multi-sectoral outcomes based on a solid analysis. The value of cash assistance should be adequate to cover or contribute to emergency basic needs and should be complemented by other relevant sectoral interventions which cannot be met through cash. Cash assistance should be risk informed and targeted based on socio-economic vulnerability, and the protection concerns of individuals and groups.

The sectoral and multisectoral outcomes of cash programmes should be monitored against defined objectives in a consistent way. The monitoring of MPC interventions should comply with the cross-cutting and sector-specific Grand Bargain MPC outcome indicators. Multi-sectoral market analysis and monitoring should be ensured, in real time, to inform and adapt assistance, irrespective of the modality. In contexts of high inflation and currency depreciation, partners should put in place sound trigger mechanisms to adapt assistance based on market monitoring data, and design programmes from the outset to anticipate potential inflationary shocks. DG ECHO maintains its commitment to providing cash, even in contexts of high inflation, provided that programming can be adequately adapted, in line with the [Good Practice Review on cash in inflation/depreciation](#)<sup>34</sup>. Whenever duly justified, to cope with market price volatility, partners are encouraged to include contingencies to adapt the transfer value, increase coverage, and/or change to an alternative modality to preserve household purchasing power capacity.

DG ECHO expects Cash Working Groups, under the leadership of the inter-sector/inter-cluster, and in collaboration with relevant sectoral working groups, to provide leadership on the above.

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

Adapting responses to 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>35</sup>.

All partners are expected to include context-specific measures to reduce the environmental footprint of the proposed actions, while preserving their effectiveness, in compliance with the minimum environmental requirements set out in the DG ECHO Environmental Guidance for humanitarian projects<sup>36</sup>.

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<sup>34</sup><https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/good-practice-review-on-cash-assistance-in-contextsof-high-inflation-and-depreciation/>

<sup>35</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>36</sup>[https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/climate-change-and-environment\\_en](https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/climate-change-and-environment_en)

## **STRENGTHENING EARLY RESPONSE CAPACITY**

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

Emergency/Rapid Response Mechanisms (ERMs/RRMs) are stand-alone actions pooling capacities of different partners for improved and more coordinated preparedness and early response, guided by early warning and contingency plans. ERMs/RRMs are designed to provide initial lifesaving multipurpose assistance when other response mechanisms are not yet in place. ERMs/RRMs are mostly used for rapid-on-set crisis. For slow-on-set, objective indicators with thresholds for engagement / disengagement should be defined in coordination with other stakeholders including the State Authorities.

### **(2) Flexibility embedded into the actions**

Whenever relevant, partners should introduce flexibility to mobilise resources from on-going actions and swiftly respond to and/or act in advance of any new emerging shocks occurring and/or forecasted 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, as well as to act in advance of an imminent shock; the three 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; iii) to provide assistance in advance of an imminent shock to prevent or reduce its acute humanitarian impact, according to a pre-agreed plan with defined triggers and actions.

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

ERM/RRM and flexibility measures are complementary and do not exclude each-other; flexibility measures enable to act in advance and to bridge the time gap between the shock 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). ]

### **(3) European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC):**

The EHRC aims at supporting the delivery of humanitarian assistance in a gap-filling approach. Under the EHRC, the Commission disposes of several tools that can be activated in case of sudden onset disasters, e.g. a series of Common Logistics Services (including air operations, warehousing services, last-mile ground transportation, etc), or a stockpile of emergency WASH and shelter items that can be pre-positioned in regional warehouses worldwide.

DG ECHO might propose directly to one or more partners to manage some of the Common Logistics Services or be in charge of the distribution of the emergency relief items. The choice of the partner will be taken based on a diverse set of criteria, such as presence in the affected area, experience and expertise available. Since the EHRC is an emergency response capacity, decisions of activation will be taken in a consultative yet

rapid way. In order to manage EHRC services and/or distribute emergency relief items, partners might make use of the flexibility embedded into the actions (section 2 above).

The HIP Policy Annex should be consulted in parallel.

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

##### **VENEZUELA**

**Target population:** Most vulnerable groups will be prioritised, notably children under 5, pregnant and lactating women, adolescents affected by multiple risks (including forced recruitment, sexual abuse, nutrition, health, SGBV, prevention of unwanted pregnancies, etc), IDPs and those “left behind”, including women head of households, elderly, people with disabilities, people affected by violence (in urban or rural areas), particularly indigenous communities.

**Sector prioritisation:** Health, Nutrition, Education in Emergencies and Protection, with coordination as transversal sector and WASH, Food Security and Shelter as support sectors of intervention. Multisectoral or integrated actions looking at responding in a comprehensive way will be prioritized. In that sense, partners are strongly encouraged to produce integral proposals that combine sectors to maximize the results.

##### **Health:**

Priority will be given to activities with the highest potential to save lives, prioritizing support to health systems already in place and ensuring accessibility to quality health care services (emergency, primary healthcare, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services, mental health services, maternal and infant care and (S)GBV attention) as well as integrating the management of severe acute malnutrition into the primary health care and support for preventive activities such as routine vaccination. The health activities must offer a comprehensive approach, avoiding fragmentation of services. Mobile clinics should be part of a strategy that includes a fixed point of reference offering full access to healthcare, and they will be considered as a stand-alone activity only if there is no health facility available. Moreover, the visits of the mobile team should be sufficiently frequent to ensure an impact.

In the vulnerable population, given the low vaccination rate, the risk of occurrence of epidemics in the region is high. Measures to strengthen existing Early Warning Systems (EWS) can be proposed, including Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), WASH and waste management standards in health services.

Health interventions should systematically include appropriate care for survivors of sexual violence as well as support for safe deliveries. Mental health and psychosocial support must be provided by qualified staff and in accordance with internationally recognised protocols, linking the response with protection-oriented interventions where possible.

##### **Nutrition:**

DG ECHO will focus on monitoring and response to acute malnutrition in children under five, pregnant and lactating women, elders and adolescent girls as a part of a comprehensive response integrated with food assistance, WASH and health according to needs. The intervention criteria to set up a nutrition programme are established based on

the emergency thresholds for Global Acute Malnutrition set by WHO (in excess of 15 %, or of 10% where there are aggravating factors). Acute undernutrition treatment must be integrated as much as possible into primary healthcare and into the national healthcare systems (facility, staff, supplies, etc.) while ensuring free quality care for the beneficiaries. The CMAM (Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition) is the preferred implementation strategy. If this integration is not feasible, the partners are expected to develop appropriate strategies to maintain access to services (i.e. external human resources, mobile setup, etc.) and to establish a referral system that will be monitored regularly. Nutritional support to people on the move (internally displaced or willing to migrate) can also be envisaged. If a recent nutritional assessment shows the prevalence of acute and moderate malnutrition in areas outside of the geographical priorities explained above, DG ECHO could consider a targeted nutrition intervention.

Another important focus is the empowerment of local actors (community health workers, qualified healthcare staff, district officials, etc.) to the management of acute malnutrition treatment and follow up strategies while responding to nutrition humanitarian needs.

Food assistance: In this specific context, food assistance through in kind assistance or vouchers should complement Protection, Health or EiE response with specific focus in improving energy intake and diet diversification. In order to strengthen nutritional response in a context prone to protracted crisis, food assistance activities should be foreseen for additional support to families if this allows better success of the nutritional programme.

Education in Emergencies: schools have been identified as strategic community places to support children and their families through the provision of quality education, safe and protective environments, socio-emotional learning and psychosocial support, and improved access to other sectoral services. Therefore, partners should develop an integrated response, also including specific programmes aimed at increasing school enrolment and retention, and reducing school desertion by children, adolescents, teachers and education personnel. Partners should include the capacity to identify and respond to individual cases.

Protection: protection of vulnerable people affected by the multiple crises remains a priority, especially for children and elderly left behind by those leaving the country, as well as populations on the move and populations affected by violence. DG ECHO will prioritise actions focusing on the provision of appropriate and comprehensive case management to the most vulnerable and at-risk people. Restoring and maintaining family links, and responding to exacerbated gender-based violence, human trafficking, exploitation, forced recruitment and violence in border areas are among the main priorities. Reinforcement of shared Protection Information Management systems, coordination and capacity building of partners and stakeholders will be considered. Partners should improve their capacity to ensure appropriate technical expertise on the field and their rapid response capacities in case of new sudden emergencies.

Coordination of the humanitarian response continues to be of paramount importance to avoid duplication, avert any form of politization of humanitarian aid and secure the humanitarian space. Actions should look at strengthening the existing cluster and coordination networks, both in Caracas and in the different regions. Strengthening information management systems is also a priority. This should be supported by the

inclusion and strengthening of local organisations to better integrate all response efforts through principled actions, thus facilitating the standardisation of responses in all sectors.

*Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)* activities should be considered where lack of access to safe water, hygiene or sanitation is among the causes of health critical needs or among the gaps identified in the provision of related services (schools, hospitals, shelters, etc.). In that sense, all interventions must ensure proper waste management to prevent environmental pollution and additional health risks.

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

**Geographical coverage:** DG ECHO recommends prioritizing border States with Colombia, Brazil, Aruba and Trinidad & Tobago (Zulia, Táchira, Apure, Amazonas, Bolívar, Falcón, Sucre and Delta Amacuro). Priority will be given to the hardest-to-reach populated areas when possible (Amazonas, Delta Amacuro). Large urban settlements, such as Caracas, Maracaibo, Valencia, and Barquisimeto are also of interest.

**Horizontal issues:** All operations should include a component to reinforce and expand the operational capacities of local civil society partners, notably in terms of technical expertise and equipment necessary for the operations, as well incorporating the greening of the operations and reducing the carbon footprint.

Partners should in all cases work to restore local markets and local provision of assistance, taking all necessary do-no-harm and precautionary measures to avert the risk of fuelling illegal activities and groups. Disaster preparedness should be mainstreamed in all actions, based on a comprehensive disaggregated risk analysis. The introduction of Crisis Modifiers is recommended.

In the same vein of the *do not harm* principle, DG-ECHO minimum environmental requirements should be systematically considered in order to avoid harm provoked by the operations and reduce their environmental footprint.

In order to preserve access to population, the safety of aid workers, and the respect of the humanitarian principles, visibility and communication standards can be subject to special derogations in Venezuela.

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

## COLOMBIA

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

With regards to mixed migrations, the volume of needs generated by the Venezuelan crisis and the transcontinental flows combined with the limited resources available make it necessary to focus the response on the immediate risks of the most vulnerable and affected populations. Operations should be based on sound all-risk analyses of multiple crises affecting people on the move from Venezuela and other countries of the region as well as other continents, based on primary disaggregated data, strong prioritisation, and clear vulnerability criteria.

**Target population:** As part of the humanitarian response to the conflict, priority should be given to individuals and communities recently affected by forced mass displacement. Specific attention needs to be given to situations of multiple affectation and/or recurring events. With regards to situations of forced confinement and other types of mobility restrictions, the severity and type of needs are to be evidenced via needs assessments. Similarly, regarding individual displacements, especially towards urban areas, partners need to be able to establish the linkages to the conflict and the resulting humanitarian needs. Overall, focus should be given to population groups that are highly exposed to immediate risks, including, but not limited to, forced recruitment, gender-based violence and other forms of violence, and weapon contamination. Having been disproportionately affected by the effects of the conflict, ethnic populations are to be prioritised through culturally appropriate approaches.

When it comes to mixed migrations, the primary target of DG ECHO-funded assistance remains people in transit, more specifically *caminantes*<sup>37</sup>, as well as pendular migrants, with limited or no resources, identified as extremely vulnerable and/or facing immediate protection risks. DG ECHO will favour actions targeting new arrivals, people who are excluded from status regularization schemes (Temporary Protection Status and/or asylum regime) and populations affected by multiple crises. People living in recently established informal settlements could also be considered based on thorough and multi-risk assessments. Very vulnerable groups, among whom people in need of international protection, indigenous people, unaccompanied and separated children, GBV and trafficking survivors, LGBTIQ+, elderly and people with disabilities require specific disaggregated risk analyses and tailored responses. Actions in support of vulnerable host communities are also to be considered.

**Geographical coverage:** Areas to be prioritized include those most affected by the conflict and/or with the highest levels of humanitarian consequences on the affected population. DG ECHO is particularly intent on supporting actions that respond to the effects of the conflict on affected populations in remote and hard-to-reach areas, with limited state presence, and with special consideration for territories with majority ethnic

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<sup>37</sup> *Caminantes* (“walkers”) refers to migrants and refugees in transit without means to afford any kind of transport to host countries.



populations. Areas where multiple crises overlap remain a priority. Partners should be able to demonstrate a sound access strategy.

When it comes to mixed migrations, border areas require specific attention due to the continuous flux of people in transit or on a pendular basis and the risks they can present, including, but not limited to, trafficking, exploitation and violence. In addition, the main routes followed by *caminantes* should be considered, with flexible approaches to reach those most in need and adapt to possible changes. Finally, other selected hotspots where at-risk migrant and refugee populations converge and/or become stranded are also prioritized.

Multi-country or regional interventions should demonstrate a sound strategy, showing the added value, coherence and connection between the actions across the different target countries. In the specific case of Colombia, DG ECHO promotes a country-based approach targeting communities and individuals affected by several hazards/crises, looking at highest risk profiles and needs levels in a comprehensive manner.

**Sector prioritisation:** Assistance must be integral and adapted to the specific risks and needs of the affected population. Nevertheless, special attention must be paid to the priority sectors defined by DG ECHO. Please consider response analysis to systematically inform on the modality choice based on robust needs assessment as well as on market, operational and risk analyses. It should be protection and gender-sensitive and include an environmentally-aware design (see section 4.1.2-Assistance Modality). For cash for sectorial outcome, please consider Annex 3 of DG ECHO's thematic policy on cash transfers.

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

Proposals must include a comprehensive and context-specific risk analysis based on primary disaggregated data, describing the protection threats, vulnerabilities and capacities of the different target groups (beyond nationality) to cope with the prevailing crises in their communities. Actions will aim at providing a direct and holistic response to identified protection risks, with preventive actions to be used as a complementary strategy.

Comprehensive case management with clear identification entry points and demonstrated technical expertise is considered a priority, providing the ground for appropriate responses to key risks, including, but not limited to, GBV and other forms of violence, trafficking, family separation, and forced recruitment. Within it, actions aimed at improving access to documentation, beyond the declaration for the “Registro Unico de Vivienda” (RUV), remain of critical importance for all forcibly displaced populations. The provision of psychosocial support, as well as implementation of active referral and follow-up systems will also be supported.

Leveraging specific information dissemination strategies on rights and services, which should be properly coordinated and monitored, is encouraged. Evidence-based advocacy and coordination will be supported to ensure sector standards are raised, as well as efforts to enhance knowledge of and compliance with IHL, evidence to support the CAAC (Children and Armed Conflict) agenda and the monitoring and prevention of grave violations against children (S/RES/1612), as well as access to asylum and international

protection procedures. Reinforcing protection monitoring and collaborative Protection Information Management systems is encouraged.

*Education in Emergencies* is a DG ECHO priority. Whilst the provision of school supplies and the improvement of infrastructure is important, an integrated approach is imperative to strengthen teachers' and families' capacities and promote students' retention in formal systems and their socio-emotional development in times of crisis.

The implementation of flexible education models and formal education strategies in very close coordination with national authorities stands as crucial to ensure children's access to and retention in schools. The response should include enhanced hosting capacities of education systems or temporary learning spaces for the increased number of students in cases of forced displacement, provision of education supplies, support to accreditation and transition from non-formal to formal systems, support to education personnel and teachers to enhance socio-emotional development and psychosocial support to most vulnerable children.

An integrated approach with Child Protection remains imperative to strengthen the capacities of education personnel and teachers to address appropriately the risks of most vulnerable children; to promote quality and safe education environments; and to mitigate risk of dropouts and children's further exposure to exploitation, abuse and violence. Advocacy and coordination efforts, particularly centred on the Safe School Declaration, are encouraged as part of strategies to prevent attacks on education, dropouts and forced recruitment.

*Health* is a priority due to the scale of needs and generalised lack of access to free quality health services in areas most affected by the humanitarian crises in Colombia. Health operations will be supported if in line with DG ECHO policy, which includes primary, maternal-infant and sexual-reproductive as well as mental health.

Priority will be given to activities with the highest potential to save lives, prioritizing support to health systems already in place and ensuring accessibility to quality health care services (emergency, primary healthcare, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services, mental health services, maternal and infant care and (S)GBV attention) as well as integrating the management of severe acute malnutrition into the primary health care and support for preventive activities such as routine vaccination. The health activities must offer a comprehensive approach, avoiding fragmentation of services. Mobile clinics should be part of a strategy including a fixed point of reference offering full access to healthcare, and they will be considered as a stand-alone activity only if there is no health facility available. Moreover, the visits of the mobile team should be sufficiently frequent to ensure an impact.

In the vulnerable population, given the low vaccination rate, the risk of occurrence of epidemics in the region is high. Measures to strengthen existing Early Warning Systems (EWS) can be proposed, including Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), WASH and waste management standards in health services.

Clear entry points should be defined for health interventions. The decision to intervene in a particular community should be taken based on mortality and morbidity data, the current level of access to care, health and nutritional indicators, and local capacity. Partners must ensure continuity of care from primary to secondary health by supporting case referral systems. Partners also have to assess and ensure the quality of services in reference

structures. Depending on the availability and existing local capacities, actions can be implemented directly or through referrals and support to local health institutions, but always with direct involvement of DG ECHO partners on quality control. Quality of care and medical services must meet international as well as national standards.

Health interventions should systematically include appropriate care for survivors of sexual violence as well as support for safe deliveries. Mental health and psychosocial support must be provided by qualified staff and in accordance with internationally recognised protocols, linking the response with protection-oriented interventions where possible.

*Nutrition:* DG ECHO will focus on addressing the most acute nutrition needs of children under 5, teenage girls, pregnant and lactating women as well as elders. The intervention criteria to set up a nutrition programme are established based on the emergency thresholds for Global Acute Malnutrition set by WHO (in excess of 15 %, or of 10% where there are aggravating factors). Conflict-affected populations, migrants and refugees, host and local communities and rural vulnerable ethnic groups are the main target population as they face higher malnutrition rates and poor access to public services.

Acute undernutrition treatment must be integrated as much as possible into primary healthcare and into the national healthcare systems (facility, staff, supplies, etc.) while ensuring free quality care for the beneficiaries and the CMAM (Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition) is the preferred implementation strategy. If this integration is not feasible, partners are expected to develop appropriate strategies to maintain access to services (i.e. external human resources, mobile setup, etc.) and to establish a referral system that will be monitored regularly.

Another important focus is the empowerment of local actors (community health workers, qualified healthcare staff, district officials, etc.) in the management of acute malnutrition treatment and follow up strategies while responding to nutrition humanitarian needs.

*Disaster Preparedness:* DG ECHO aims at improving the synergies between humanitarian response and disaster preparedness through operations focused on enhancing local and national capacities to prepare for and respond to multiple risks. This includes strengthening the capacity of first responders at local level with a focus on early action, as well as of communities with a focus on protection and self-protection. It also includes coordinated action at national level for more integrated multi-risk preparedness and response efforts, including in the area of shock-responsive social protection.

Focus will continue to be on situations of overlapping vulnerabilities, supported by a multi-risk approach. DG ECHO also encourages proposals focused on reinforcing the assessment, information management and analysis capacities of institutions and civil society in order to improve the pertinence of the humanitarian response. Integration is encouraged through interventions that combine humanitarian action and disaster preparedness elements as well as through linkages with the priority sectors of the response.

DG ECHO partners should systematically adopt a displacement lens in their humanitarian action, in order to integrate displacement more effectively into risk management, including preparedness. DG ECHO Disaster Preparedness actions in Colombia should adopt a systemic approach to strengthen capacities to integrate and respond to population displacements in a context of cumulative hazards and risks. Protection Preparedness actions will be considered when clearly aiming at enhancing response capacities of

authorities, national systems, first responders and humanitarian actors to mitigate protection risks and reinforce early alert systems in contexts of violence, armed conflict, and natural hazards.

*Food Security:* Interventions in this sector can be funded under rapid response mechanisms or with clear linkages to one of the priority sectors and not as stand-alone activities. Food assistance, through the most appropriate transfer modality, must respond to specific needs identified through primary data collection, with a robust and evidence-based targeting methodology. Food Security Assessments should be systematically conducted, and Food Consumption Scores used as a key indicator. Coordination with other actors, including Government institutions, must be ensured.

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

*WASH and shelter:* Interventions in these sectors can be funded under rapid response mechanisms or with clear linkages to one of the priority sectors and not as stand-alone activities.

*Information management:* In order to facilitate evidence-based programming and advocacy, specific attention will be paid to any initiative that aims at producing comprehensive information and analysis on humanitarian needs and risks, market monitoring and assessment in areas affected by armed conflict, possibility for digitalisation and interoperability between databases, differential analysis of the transfer modalities under the migration roads (Cash, in Kind and Voucher) and delivery mechanisms (in coordination with the Cash Working Group). DG ECHO promotes streamlined and integrated information management in support of risk-informed responses, in collaboration, where possible, with local and national institutions.

**Horizontal issues:** Actions should contribute to the implementation of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) for Colombia. DG ECHO partners are requested to coordinate their actions with the relevant coordination mechanisms established at local, national and regional level.

DG ECHO may support coordination at local and national level, leveraging on existing mechanisms and in a way that promotes a comprehensive and holistic analytical and response framework and reduces duplication.

Partners should attempt to formulate innovative and flexible responses to shocks and build upon lessons learnt on added-value and impact. Partners are furthermore encouraged to consider two models for strengthened response capacity:

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

*Nexus:* Linkages with development and peace building initiatives in Colombia are strongly encouraged in order to promote durable solutions and resilience for affected populations where the situation permits it. Partners are encouraged to foster linkages between

humanitarian actions to be funded by DG ECHO and already existing resilience/development actions funded by other donors. Initiatives that strengthen the nexus and analyse its impact on beneficiaries will be considered with the utmost interest.

*Information dissemination* must demonstrate direct impact on identified humanitarian needs. Information dissemination should represent a fraction of the intervention, be coordinated among all actors, and be systematically linked to assistance in any of the given priority sectors.

All proposals must include *visibility and communication* activities aimed at raising awareness about the humanitarian consequences of this forgotten crisis and/or enhancing humanitarian space and access.

In the vein of the *do not harm* principle, DG-ECHO minimum environmental requirements should be systematically considered to avoid potential negative impact provoked by the operations and reduce their environmental print.

All interventions in Colombia should be designed and implemented under the assumption that the State bears primary responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to the populations affected by the conflict. Thus, relations with key stakeholders should include advocacy actions oriented towards engaging local and national authorities to fulfil their responsibilities.

Finally, the increase in xenophobia and discrimination in host countries makes it crucial to mainstream social cohesion community actions.

## **SOUTH AMERICA**

### **1. Response to mixed migration and forced displacement**

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

**Target population:** People in transit, more specifically *caminantes*<sup>38</sup> with limited or no resources, identified as extremely vulnerable, are the primary target of DG ECHO-funded assistance. People living in recent informal settlements in close vicinity of urban centres are also of concern. DG ECHO will favour actions targeting new arrivals, people who are excluded from status regularization schemes and people affected by multiple crises. People living in recently established informal settlements could also be considered based on thorough and multi-risk assessments. Very vulnerable groups, among which people in need of international protection, indigenous people, unaccompanied and separated children, GBV and trafficking survivors, LGBTIQ+, elderly and people with disabilities require specific disaggregated risk analyses and tailored responses. Actions in support of vulnerable host communities are also to be considered.

**Geographical coverage:** priority will be given to hotspots of the migration routes where protection risks are higher and accumulation of stranded people may originate

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<sup>38</sup> *Caminantes* (“walkers”) refers to migrants and refugees in transit without means to afford any kind of transport to host countries.

humanitarian needs. In this sense, border areas require specific attention due to the influx of people in transit, higher vulnerability and specific protection risks linked with trafficking and violence, with presence of armed groups and organised crime networks.

**Sector prioritisation:** Assistance must be integral and adapted to the specific risks and needs of the most vulnerable cases identified, combining sectors in a way that reduces the risks and covers the most pressing urgent needs. It is expected that response analysis systematically inform modality choice based on robust needs assessment as well as on market, operational and risk analyses. It should be protection and gender-sensitive and include an environmentally aware design. On cash for sectorial outcome, please consider annex 3 of DG ECHO's thematic policy on cash transfers.

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

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

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

Livelihood support: DG ECHO-funded actions will focus on the immediate and most pressing needs of the affected population. Actions related to livelihood should demonstrate rapid impact on urgent needs highlighted by beneficiaries. Stand-alone long-term livelihood interventions will not be supported as such, however DG ECHO promotes the

link of humanitarian assistance with long-term programmes focused on socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants.

*Disaster preparedness:* DG-ECHO will consider capacity-building activities oriented to strengthen the localization of the response to human mobility situations. In this sense, protection preparedness actions will be considered when clearly aiming at enhancing response capacities of authorities, national systems, first responders and humanitarian actors to mitigate protection risks and reinforce early alert systems.

*Coordination and information management:* DG ECHO may support coordination at local, country and regional level provided that they do not distinguish between different beneficiary nationalities or crises typologies in the same area. In the context of evidence-based programming and advocacy, DG ECHO will pay specific attention to any initiative aiming at producing comprehensive disaggregated information and analysis, if it is integrated in a joint framework and at the service of the humanitarian community.

Other sectors, notably shelter or food security should be covered under a specific and strategic targeting integrated with protection. In this sense, it is crucial that shock-responsive social protection systems synergistically encompass both social assistance (mainly cash transfers) and social care implemented at regional, national and local level. Otherwise, given that people in transit are the main group to be targeted, it becomes essential to guarantee shelter services along the routes to ensure protection, and in certain cases to facilitate the concentration and coordination of services for people on the move. A possible support to Cash Working Groups (CWG) may also be considered for market monitoring, support interoperability between different consortium database and support to food security and nutrition analysis in order to monitor the evolution of the cumulative impact of COVID-19 and the crisis in Ukraine on the most vulnerable population.

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

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

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

## 2. Disaster Preparedness

The current multi-hazard and multi-year strategy is adjusted to the evolving situation, risks and vulnerabilities of the region, building on previous achievements and actions in progress. It seeks to address identified preparedness gaps to support vulnerable population exposed to double and triple affectations as a combination of natural hazards with violence, human rights violations, and consequent displacement. Through a programmatic and systemic approach and building on achievements and lessons learned from past events, support should be provided to broaden the scope of community-based actions.

The following priorities will be considered:

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

This includes supporting preparedness through:

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

Given the critical context of food insecurity in many of the countries, the development of food security information management and early warning systems is considered as a priority.

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

South America is today the scenario of several interlinked large population movements triggered by the Venezuelan crisis, COVID-19 and the subsequent economic crisis, Colombian conflicts, environmental destruction, and extra-continental migration flows. In this sense, DG ECHO will consider actions aiming at supporting preparedness and response planning for population movements and promoting the inclusiveness of displaced populations and discriminated minorities in preparedness schemes as well as in social protection shock-responsive systems.

Improving assessment, advocacy and response capacities is key for reinforcing an inclusive disaster preparedness for indigenous and displaced people exposed to discrimination, environmental disasters, violence and human rights violations.

## *3. Climate and environment resilience*

Based on lessons learned from current and past interventions, DG ECHO will continue to support the reinforcement of local capacities of ethnic communities and organizations to assess and respond to climate change-related and environmental disasters. Considering that these events are often accompanied by violence and displacement from organized crime and armed groups, a protection approach needs to be taken. In these cases, localization becomes a fundamental part of the intervention, with the recognition of ancestral knowledge for the local response. Outbreak preparedness, from epidemiological surveillance to vector control, can also be considered.

## *4. Urban preparedness*

Interventions will be focused mainly on city slums hosting migrants and refugees and exposed to disasters, epidemics, and violence.

**Target population:** Communities with the highest risk indicators and the lowest coping capacities, most exposed to natural hazards, pervasive violence, discrimination, as well as population on the move or potentially affected by forced displacement. National and local institutions as well as civil society organizations dealing with disaster risk management as well as with protection and assistance to victims of violence and forced displacement or migration.

**Geographical coverage:** Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, and indigenous areas of Gran Chaco and Amazonian basin hosting communities at risk.



Climate change and environmental destruction is severely affecting communities in remote areas without state presence.

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

The national authorities in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia still need support for understanding and engaging with previous DRM processes because of new administrations, processes, and staff turnover. This might pose additional challenges to the DRM systems and other stakeholders. An anticipation strategy to reduce the impact of changes should be explored.

Minimum environmental requirements should apply to all operations, but environment protection is specifically relevant for indigenous and ancestral communities whose daily lives and livelihoods depend directly on nature's health. In these cases, environmental protection should be included as a fundamental part of the activities contributing to disaster risk reduction results.

*Mainstreaming of protection:* ongoing actions already include a protection approach ensuring the meaningful access and participation of most vulnerable populations, promoting equity, dignity, safety, including duty of care and do no harm and mitigating exposure to risks of violence, abuse, and exploitation.

*Logistics* must be mainstreamed, especially in the current context, considering pre-positioning of stocks/supplies; pre-identification & pre-contracting of local vendors; and resource pooling.

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

*Flexibility:* Partners should attempt to formulate innovative and flexible responses to shocks and build upon lessons learnt on added value and impact. Partners are furthermore encouraged to consider two models for strengthened response capacity:

- a) Development of capacities for Emergency / Rapid Response Mechanisms (RRM)
- b) Crisis Modifiers (CM). A specific CM Result will ensure a context-based rapid response in case a large unforeseen emergency occurs in the area of intervention.

*Nexus:* As humanitarian action is obviously not the solution to the complexities of the crises tackled, which are structural in nature, it is crucial to ensure the complementarity of humanitarian response with development programming as well as with local risk management mechanisms. In that sense, DG ECHO encourages that proposed operations are conceived as part of long-term strategies looking at reinforcing the sustainable resilience of communities. Thus, proposals submitted should indicate the linkages between proposed actions with development actions or local/national plans and policies.

*Localisation:* operations should count on communities, local institutions and civil society along the project cycle from the formulation to the implementation and evaluation. In this sense it is important that local capacities are previously assessed to identify opportunities and gaps that need to be tackled to ensure a proper response and reinforce capacities where most needed.

## CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO

DG ECHO will support actions responding to four thematic priorities, addressing the humanitarian consequences of 1) other situations of violence, 2) forced displacement, 3) food insecurity and 4) disaster preparedness.

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

OSV encompasses situations of violence that cause significant humanitarian needs and protection risks, while they do not reach the threshold to qualify as non-international armed conflict and therefore fall outside the application of IHL. However, this violence, exacerbated by the economic consequences of COVID-19, Eta and Iota and the Russian-Ukrainian war as well as natural hazards, does not entail fewer risks, vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs for civilians, and requires a comprehensive response to ensure their safety and dignity. Violence is having a significant impact on children and adolescents and hampering their access to education. Their risks include, among others, infiltration of gang members in schools, forced recruitment, sexual and gender-based violence, family separation, extortion, exploitation, abuse and threats.

**Target population:** The most vulnerable people suffering from recent violence, including survivors of GBV and internally displaced persons, based on comprehensive and context-specific risk analysis. Children and adolescents, people with disabilities, and targeted minorities, including people of the LGBTIQ+ community and indigenous groups might have particular vulnerabilities.

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

**Sector prioritisation:** Priority will be given to the direct provision of protection sectoral assistance, focussing on urgent unmet risks, and access to life-saving basic services, such as health care, nutrition and education in emergencies. Actions must be based on a consolidated and context-specific risk analysis of primary disaggregated data and be needs-based. Interventions should reinforce the promotion of humanitarian access, ensure continuous and effective protection monitoring, strengthening protection information management systems for all stakeholders, and enhance community approaches. Actions aiming at reinforcing existing assistance and protection systems at local, national and regional levels are eligible as well. Please consider the response analysis to systematically inform the modality choice based on robust needs assessment as well as on market, operational and risk analyses. It should be protection and gender-sensitive and include an environmentally aware design (see section 4.1.2-Assistance Modality). For cash for sectorial outcome, please consider annex 3 of DG ECHO's thematic policy on cash transfers.

*Integrated protection assistance:* Due to the inability or political unwillingness of national structures to respond to the needs of survivors of violence, actions should integrate direct comprehensive case management with clear identification strategies and demonstrated technical expertise of the most vulnerable victims and survivors, and if needed, the provision of emergency shelter and alternative care. Legal assistance, dissemination on rights and services, and access to those, are part of this holistic and integrated approach.

*Health* is a priority due to the scale of needs and the funding deficit in this sector. DG ECHO will support health operations in line with DG ECHO policy and operational recommendations. Priority will be given to activities with the highest potential to save lives, prioritizing support to health systems already in place and ensuring accessibility to quality health care services (emergency, primary healthcare, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services, mental health services, maternal and infant care and (S)GBV attention) as well as integrating the management of severe acute malnutrition into the primary health care and support for preventive activities such as routine vaccination. The health activities must offer a comprehensive approach, avoiding fragmentation of services.

*Education in Emergencies* is a priority for DG ECHO and should systematically be integrated with child protection programming for appropriate referrals and response to identified cases. The implementation of flexible education models and formal education strategies stands as crucial to ensure children's access to schools and their retention in the formal system. The response should include enhanced hosting capacities of education systems, accreditation and transition from non-formal to formal systems, support to education personnel and teachers to enhance socio-emotional development and psychosocial support to most vulnerable children, and social cohesion community actions to reduce discrimination and xenophobia. Advocacy and coordination efforts, particularly centred on the Safe School initiative, are encouraged as part of strategies to prevent attacks on education, dropouts and forced recruitment.

*Disaster preparedness mainstreaming* remains of paramount importance for actions funded by DG ECHO as cross-cutting theme, based on a comprehensive risk analysis. The introduction of Crisis Modifiers should be considered.

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

**Horizontal issues:** In order to enable evidence-informed actions and advocacy, it is imperative to enhance the quality of data and information collected, analysed, shared and managed on OSV and its humanitarian consequences on the civilian population. The reinforcement of coordination and information management systems, strengthening the protection, emergency preparedness and response capacities of humanitarian actors to enhance the response to victims and survivors of violence will be a priority.

Actions should contribute to the implementation of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and in complementarity with other donors in the region. ECHO partners are requested to coordinate their actions with the relevant coordination mechanisms established at local, national and regional level.

*Nexus:* Linkages with development and peace building initiatives in Central America are strongly encouraged to promote durable solutions and resilience for affected populations where the situation permits it. Partners are encouraged to foster linkages between humanitarian actions to be funded by DG ECHO and already existing resilience/development actions funded by other donors. Initiatives that strengthen the nexus and analyse its impact on beneficiaries will be considered with the utmost interest.

## 2) Forced displacement

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

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

**Geographical coverage:** Border areas require specific attention due to the influx of stranded people, people in transit and returnees. Peri-urban settings, with limited state presence and services, hosting the most vulnerable refugees and migrants could be considered. Multi-country or regional interventions should demonstrate a sound strategy, coordination and showing the connection between the actions across the different targeted countries.

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

*Health:* DG ECHO will support health operations, which includes primary, maternal and sexual-reproductive, immunization, as well as mental health. Survivors of sexual violence should receive an appropriate and holistic response. Depending on the availability and accessibility and on existing local capacities, actions can be implemented directly, or

through referrals, always ensuring a quality control and follow-up of the referrals and follow-up.

*Protection:* All actions supported by DG ECHO must aim at improving the protection of beneficiaries, either through stand-alone or integrated actions. Comprehensive case management with clear entry strategies and demonstrated technical expertise, legal assistance and access to documentation are considered a priority. Particular attention should be given to child protection for unaccompanied and separated minors. Actions facilitating access to qualitative services and implementing active referrals and accompaniment to the most vulnerable people will be strongly encouraged, in complementarity with specific information dissemination strategies on rights and services along the routes, which should be properly monitored and followed by implementing partners on their impact.

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

*Disaster preparedness:* *mainstreaming* remains of paramount importance for actions funded by DG ECHO as cross-cutting theme, based on a comprehensive risk analysis. The introduction of Crisis Modifiers should be considered.

**Horizontal issues:** In order to enable evidence-informed actions and advocacy, it is imperative to enhance the quality of data and information collected, analysed, shared and managed on forced migration throughout Central America.

Actions should contribute to the implementation of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and in complementarity with other donors in the region. ECHO partners are requested to coordinate their actions with the relevant coordination mechanisms established at local, national and regional level.

*Nexus:* Linkages with development and peace building initiatives in Central America are strongly encouraged to promote durable solutions and resilience for affected populations where the situation permits it. Partners are encouraged to foster linkages between humanitarian actions to be funded by DG ECHO and already existing resilience/development actions funded by other donors. Initiatives that strengthen the nexus and analyse its impact on beneficiaries will be considered with the utmost interest.

### 3) Food insecurity

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

**Target population:** in priority, food assistance interventions will aim to target households categorized in IPC phase 4 with additional constraints (households with poor food-consumption and asset base, high number of dependents, absence of remittances, displaced, presence of individuals at risk of and/or affected by acute malnutrition, with a

special focus on children under five and pregnant women). The definition of criteria adapted to local characteristics of households is encouraged.

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

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

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

*Disaster preparedness mainstreaming* remains of paramount importance for actions funded by DG ECHO as cross-cutting theme, based on a comprehensive risk analysis. The introduction of Crisis Modifiers should be considered.

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

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

DG ECHO encourages localization, improved quality financing and direct transfers of cash to beneficiaries. Moreover, coordination among humanitarian operations in Central America is encouraged and partners are expected to contribute to joint efforts for needs assessment (HNO), programming (HRP) and monitoring. Partners should ensure as much as possible strong linkages with longer-term development initiatives, demonstrating clear nexus opportunities with food and nutrition security programmes. Actions should contribute to the implementation of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and in complementarity with other donors in the region. ECHO partners are requested to coordinate their actions with the relevant coordination mechanisms established at local, national and regional level.

*Nexus*: Linkages with development and peace building initiatives in Central America are strongly encouraged to promote durable solutions and resilience for affected populations where the situation permits it. Partners are encouraged to foster linkages between humanitarian actions to be funded by DG ECHO and already existing resilience/development actions funded by other donors. Initiatives that strengthen the nexus and analyse its impact on beneficiaries will be considered with the utmost interest.

#### 4) Disaster Preparedness

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

**Target population**: Priority will be given to those communities with the highest risk indicators and the lowest coping capacities, most exposed to natural hazards, pervasive violence, displacement and food insecurity, and to regional, national and local institutions responsible for DRM in need of technical support.

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

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

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

Development of risk and forecast-based tools for early action to further improve capacity to act in anticipation of a crisis and for better preparedness to response. The strategy will enhance local first responders' capacities to deliver basic services. Focus will be put on improving early action and locally/nationally owned rapid response mechanisms, integrating shock responsiveness and protection approach as well as Crisis Modifiers. All the countries in the region should be targeted, but special attention will be given to Northern Central America and Nicaragua. The analysis of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in the region will be necessary in order to identify additional risks that vulnerable groups may face.

##### 2. *Preparedness in violent and fragile settings and human-induced crises*.

Enhancing local first responders' capacities in delivering basic services in a protection-sensitive manner, including to non-nationals and strengthening the capacities of protection information management along the migration route. Strengthening protection networks and shock responsive services, early warning systems, contingency plans, information management to increase preparedness in areas affected by pervasive violence, displacement and human-induced threats. Priority should be given to all-risk analysis to ensure evidence-based actions and to prepare the most vulnerable populations against violence and the consequences of forced displacement, integration of forced displacement and risks of social unrest in DP plans at all levels, community-based protection

preparedness and preparedness for sudden (large) population movements and groups of transit/stranded migrants.

3. *Climate and environmental resilience:*

Areas most exposed to natural hazards should be targeted. As the region is being affected by epidemic outbreaks (COVID-19, dengue and others), epidemic preparedness will be included, from surveillance to vector control activities. Priority should be given to:

- preparedness for climate shock-responsive/mobile cash transfer systems, drought EWS strengthening tools, monitoring, adaptation and mitigation, including communication and awareness raising in most affected areas and resilient WASH infrastructure rehabilitation, improvement of the multi-sectoral approach to climate and environmental resilience, including WASH, livelihoods, protection and anticipatory actions and EWS;
- the integration of displaced persons, including non-nationals in climate and environmental resilience initiatives, application of green technologies and environmental management through DP initiatives;
- supporting and enhancing recognition of ancestral knowledge for local response to disasters; improvement of advocacy capacities to reinforce an inclusive preparedness for indigenous communities, people with disabilities and displaced people facing environmental disasters and violence and enhancing coordination with development initiatives at national and regional levels.

4. *Urban preparedness.*

Enhancing preparedness in contexts of urban vulnerability with an emphasis on cities and urban agglomerations mostly exposed to natural hazards and human-induced disasters, including violence, movement of people (IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers).

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

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

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

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



comprehensive approach to strengthening communities' resilience and mitigate the impact of identified threats.

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

## HAITI

DG ECHO will support actions responding to the unaddressed humanitarian risks and needs caused by civil unrest and violence, forced displacements, drastic reduction in access to basic services, drought, food insecurity, epidemics and education in emergencies.

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

**Geographical coverage:** Priority will be given to areas presenting high levels of exposure, vulnerability and recurrent humanitarian needs, in particular urban and peri-urban areas, and departments identified by the latest IPC mapping as very vulnerable or particularly affected by cholera outbreak.

**Sector priorities:** Partners should consider the response analysis to inform systematically the choice of modality based on robust needs assessment as well as on market, operational and risk analyses. It should be protection and gender-sensitive and include an environmentally aware design (see section 4.1.2-Assistance Modality). For cash for sectorial outcome, please consider annex 3 of DG ECHO's thematic policy on cash transfers. In support to the CWG, support to the following can be considered: analysis and capitalisation of the different targeting methodologies (rural Vs urban); transfer value and beneficiaries' priorities, use of cash and level of basic needs coverage (rural vs urban); different approach to inflation/deflation, food security response in urban settings and nexus with social protection programmes; market assessment and monitoring.

### Food assistance and nutrition

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Protection

DG ECHO will follow a twin-track approach targeting the most vulnerable populations according to the context-specific risk analysis, comprising primary disaggregated data and comprehensive assessment. Responsive actions, such as direct case management and services provision to most vulnerable people, community outreach, information dissemination and referrals to appropriate services, will be prioritised with preventive activities as complementary. A holistic and integrated approach to case management with clear entry points and demonstrated technical expertise, including mental health and psychological support, legal assistance and referrals to specific health and socio-economic reintegration actions within the case action plans will be considered.

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

### Epidemics

On the cholera epidemic, DG ECHO will focus on saving lives through the provision of adequate treatment, safe water/sanitation and hygiene promotion, epidemiological surveillance and alert system, the reinforcement of local capacities and knowledge. Actions related to the response to the on-going outbreak should maintain and strengthen an operational approach, combining coordinated actions in health and WASH sectors. Coordination through DINEPA and MSPP should be ensured.

Components should include:

Adequate cholera case management capacity scaled up in affected communities with reported cholera cases to Cholera Treatment Centres (CTC), Cholera Treatment Units (CTU) and Oral Rehydration Points (ORP).

Survey of water sources and environmental sanitation to identify contaminated sources and potential sources of contamination. Daily or continuous chlorination of all high-risk supplies and, where possible, protection of open water sources. Regular monitoring of water quality should be established and continued as long as possible.

Ensuring adequate quantities of water for drinking and hygiene purposes. All households in affected areas should have access to a minimum of 15l/person/day of safe water. It may be necessary to install temporary, emergency water supplies to supply these quantities for the duration of the outbreak. Care should be taken to ensure full involvement of all actors, including private water vendors, to avoid undermining existing supply systems.

Distribution of household water treatment can be considered but ONLY if accompanied by an effective education campaign and monitoring on proper use of treatment and treated water.

Establishment of measures for safe disposal of faeces and other waste including replacing risky practices such as bucket latrines with minimum safe sanitation facilities for each household

Providing adequate safe water supplies, sanitation facilities and hygiene measures for diarrhoea treatment centres and other medical and education facilities where there is a high risk of disease transmission because people are gathered together in one place.

### Education in emergencies

Besides the structural challenges of the education system in Haiti, the rampant and pervasive violence that is affecting urban settings in Port-au-Prince urban area is generating acute and significant educational and protection needs. Education in emergencies intervention addressing those needs could be envisaged, prioritising crisis affected population living or coming from conflict affected areas (particularly IDPs, children at-risk of dropout, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including girls, unaccompanied and separated children, children with disabilities or exacerbated exposure to further identified risks). Whilst the provision of school supplies and the improvement of infrastructure is important, an integrated approach with Child Protection remains imperative to strengthen the capacities of education personnel and teachers to address appropriately the risks of most vulnerable children; to promote quality and safe education environments; and to mitigate risk of dropouts and children's further exposure to exploitation, abuse and violence.

The implementation of flexible education models and formal education strategies in very close coordination with national authorities stands as crucial to ensure children's access to and retention in schools. The response should include enhanced capacities of education systems or temporary learning spaces for the increased number of students in cases of forced displacement, support to education personnel and teachers to enhance socio-emotional development and psychosocial support to most vulnerable children.

Advocacy and coordination efforts, particularly centred on the Safe School initiative, are encouraged as part of strategies to prevent attacks on education, dropouts and forced recruitment.

### Disaster Preparedness

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

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

- National Systems and partners improve capacities to respond at national, departmental and local level, developing locally and nationally owned rapid response mechanisms based on lessons learned from recent disasters. Stock-piling capacities will be enhanced, E-prep further development will be evaluated, and social protection schemes will be analysed for improved preparedness.
- Local communities and national capacities are strengthened in order to respond to protection needs caused by socio-political unrest and rampant violence. DP systems develop emergency and contingency plans to integrate violence risks and protection needs. Existing mechanisms for violence prevention, mitigation and response are reinforced. The meaningful participation of all vulnerable groups is ensured.
- Local and national capacities are strengthened to ensure the inclusion of a climate and resilience sensitive disaster preparedness approach. Climate shock-responsive capacities developed for preparedness and response (mobile cash transfer systems). Vulnerability and capacity assessment integrating climate risk/impact projections are updated. Epidemic outbreak preparedness capacities are strengthened.
- Special focus is placed on improving urban preparedness and early response with emphasis in Port au Prince for WASH, Shelter and Protection. Protection Preparedness actions will be considered when clearly aiming at enhancing response capacities of authorities, national systems, first responders and humanitarian actors to mitigate protection risks and reinforce early alert systems in contexts of violence, armed conflict, and natural hazards.

- Various models to strengthen emergency response capacity including the use of Crisis Modifiers (CM) and the development of Emergency Response Mechanisms (ERM), with robust protection components and possibly legal support, food, non-food items and shelter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## CARIBBEAN

### Disaster Preparedness

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### *3. Climate and environmental resilience*

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

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

### *4. Urban preparedness*

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

in urban areas, insufficient dissemination of best practices, housing vulnerabilities and the risks of building collapse.

Indicative activities may include: resilient housing linked to slum-upgrading strategies fostering nexus with development programming, enhancing building assessment and retrofitting, awareness raising, community-based preparedness, enhance risk-informed urban planning and decision making, contribute to the Caribbean Safe School Initiative, Comprehensive Safe Hospital Framework, enhancing response capacity in urban contexts with map server and Resilience toolkits.

### **Cross-cutting issues**

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

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

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

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

### **Regional and multi-country**

Considering that many of the hazards, risks and crises mentioned above affect several countries beyond borders and are interlinked, DG-ECHO could consider regional or multi-country interventions if they demonstrate a sound strategy, showing the added value, coherence and connection between the actions across the different target countries.

In this sense, Programmatic Partnerships with multi-year funding will be prioritized for regional interventions aiming at long-term impacts beyond the immediate response, as it is the case of mixed migration or other hazards/crises with a regional scope for which capacities need to be strengthened.