

## TECHNICAL ANNEX

### AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN, IRAN AND CENTRAL ASIA

#### 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> /D4
Contact persons at HQ	Contact persons in the field
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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 180 306 648 of which an indicative amount of EUR 12 500 000 for Education in Emergencies.

In line with DG ECHO's commitment under the Grand Bargain initiative, pilot Programmatic Partnerships have been launched in 2020, 2021 and 2022 with a limited number of partners. An indicative amount of **EUR 500 000** will be dedicated to these Programmatic Partnerships in 2023. In addition, new Programmatic Partnerships could be signed in 2023<sup>3</sup>. Part of the allocation of this HIP could therefore also be attributed to these new Programmatic Partnerships (\*).

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<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> More information can be found in the 'Guidance to Partners – DG ECHO Programmatic partnerships2023'<https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/ngo/humanitarian-partnership-2021-2027/programmatic-partnership>  
ECHO/-AS/BUD/2023/91000

Indicative breakdown per Actions as per Worldwide Decision (in euros)<sup>4</sup>:

Country(ies)	Action (a) Man-made crises and natural hazards	Action (b) Initial emergency response/s mall- scale/ epidemics	Action (c) Disaster Preparedness	Actions (d) to(f) Transport / Complementar yactivities	TOTAL
Afghanistan	149 019 200	-	-	-	149 019 200
Pakistan	16 019 200	-	1 000 000	-	17 019 200
Iran	8 500 000	-	1 700 000	-	10 200 000
Programmatic <sup>5</sup> partnerships (Pakistan)			500 000		500 000
Central Asia*	2 849 458		500 000		3 349 458
Programmatic Partnership, communication and coordination*	218 790				218 790
TOTAL	176 606 648		3 700 000		180 306 648

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

### 3. PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT

#### a) Co-financing:

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> For flexibility and fast responsiveness purposes, this breakdown can be adjusted within certain limits based on newly arising needs.

<sup>5</sup> HIP with EUR 0.5 million for Pakistan PPP.

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>6 7</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.

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<sup>6</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.

#### 4. ADMINISTRATIVE INFO

##### **Allocation round 1 Afghanistan**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 89 019 200<sup>7</sup>
  - Up to EUR 78 519 200 for all Humanitarian Operations
  - Up to EUR 10 500 000 for all Education in Emergencies (EiE)
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round *if it does not cover all the funding*.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/ 01/ 2023<sup>8</sup>
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>9</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>10</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under a previous Humanitarian Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests with a view to extending the ongoing action for a total of up to 48 months. Actions that are extended further to modification requests can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 above)<sup>11</sup>.
- e) Potential partners<sup>12</sup> All DG ECHO Partners with demonstrated current operational capacity in Afghanistan.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of ongoing actions<sup>13</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 08/03/2023<sup>14</sup> for all Humanitarian Operations

##### **Allocation round 2 Pakistan**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 6 000 000
  - Up to EUR 4 500 000 for all Humanitarian Operations
  - Up to EUR 500 000 for all Education in Emergencies (EiE)

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<sup>7</sup> This amount includes EUR 19 200 contributed by the Republic of Latvia to the European Commission aiming to provide an integrated response to the multifaceted crisis in Afghanistan. This is reflected in the First Modification of the 2023 HIP for Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Central Asia.

<sup>8</sup> The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest. In case of amendments to existing agreements, the eligible date will however be the eligible date set in the initial agreement.

<sup>9</sup> Maximum duration of an action is 48 months

<sup>10</sup> See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding (November 2022) available on DGEcho WebSite (dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu)

<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.

<sup>14</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.

- Up to EUR 1 000 000 for all Disaster Preparedness Operations
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: Please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023<sup>15</sup>.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>16</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>17</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months. For Disaster Preparedness, justification is needed only for particularly volatile context. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under a previous Humanitarian Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests with a view to extending the ongoing action for a total of up to 48 months. Actions that are extended further to modification requests can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 above)<sup>18</sup>.
- e) Potential partners<sup>19</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of ongoing actions<sup>20</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 19/1/2023

### **Allocation round 3 Iran**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 10 200 000
  - Up to EUR 7 000 000 for all Humanitarian Operations
  - Up to EUR 1 500 000 for all Education in Emergencies (EiE)
  - Up to EUR 1 700 000 for all Disaster Preparedness Operations
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: Please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023<sup>21</sup>.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>22</sup> provided

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<sup>15</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>16</sup> Maximum duration of an action is 48 months

<sup>17</sup> See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding (November 2022) available on DGEcho WebSite (dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu)

<sup>18</sup> Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

<sup>19</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>20</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>21</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>22</sup> Maximum duration of an action is 48 months

that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>23</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months. For Disaster Preparedness, justification is needed only for particularly volatile context. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under a previous Humanitarian Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests with a view to extending the ongoing action for a total of up to 48 months. Actions that are extended further to modification requests can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 above)<sup>24</sup>.

- 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: 19/1/2023

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<sup>23</sup> See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding (November 2022) available on DGEcho WebSite (dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu)

<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.

**Allocation round 4 Pakistan**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 10 019 200<sup>27</sup> for flood-related Humanitarian Operations.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: Please refer to the section 0 of the HIP – First modification, and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023<sup>28</sup>.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>29</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>30</sup>. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under a previous Humanitarian Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests with a view to extending the ongoing action for a total of up to 48 months. Actions that are extended further to modification requests can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 above)<sup>31</sup>.
- e) Potential partners<sup>32</sup>: Partners will be selected from the proposals/requests received under allocation round 2.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of ongoing actions<sup>33</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 19/01/2023

**Allocation round 5: Central Asia**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 3 568 248 (including a Programmatic Partnership with IFRC)
  - Kyrgyzstan: 1 648 752
  - Tajikistan: 1 700 706
- b) Costs will be eligible from: 01/06/2023.
- c) Potential partners: IFRC. The funding will be allocated to the pilot Programmatic Partnership action ‘Accelerating local action in humanitarian and health crises’ in the following countries: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan.

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<sup>27</sup> This amount includes EUR 19 200 contributed by the Republic of Latvia to the European Commission aiming to provide an integrated response to the floods in Pakistan. This is reflected in the First Modification of the 2023 HIP for Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Central Asia.

<sup>28</sup> The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest. In case of amendments to existing agreements, the eligible date will however be the eligible date set in the initial agreement.

<sup>29</sup> Maximum duration of an action is 48 months.

<sup>30</sup> See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding (November 2022) available on DG ECHO WebSite (dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu)

<sup>31</sup> Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

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

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



- d) Information to be provided: Single Form<sup>34</sup>

### **Allocation round 6 Afghanistan**

- a) Indicative amount of EUR 60 000 000 for all Humanitarian Operations.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: interventions mentioned in section 0 of the HIP.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/10/2023<sup>35</sup>
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>36</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>37</sup>. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under a previous Humanitarian Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests with a view to extending the ongoing action for a total of up to 48 months. Actions that are extended further to modification requests can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 above)<sup>38</sup>
- e) Potential partners<sup>39</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners with demonstrated current operational capacity in Afghanistan, who submitted a proposal or modification request under allocation round 1.<sup>40</sup>
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 09/11/2023

### **Allocation round 7 Pakistan**

- a) Indicative amount of EUR 1 000 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: interventions mentioned in section 0 of the HIP, with priority to protection encompassing legal aid and information provision, communication with communities (including rumor management) and mobility data monitoring and analysis.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/10/ 2023<sup>41</sup>
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>42</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the

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<sup>34</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>35</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>36</sup> Maximum duration of an action is 48 months

<sup>37</sup> See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding (November 2022) available on DG ECHO WebSite (dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu)

<sup>38</sup> Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

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

<sup>40</sup> Eligible requests which cannot be funded due to budget limitations can be put on hold and considered for funding at a later stage.

<sup>41</sup> The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest. In case of amendments to existing agreements, the eligible date will however be the eligible date set in the initial agreement.

<sup>42</sup> Maximum duration of an action is 48 months

partner<sup>43</sup>. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under a previous Humanitarian Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests with a view to extending the ongoing action for a total of up to 48 months. Actions that are extended further to modification requests can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 above)<sup>44</sup>.

- e) Potential partners<sup>45</sup>: UNHCR, IOM (based on specific mandates).
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 09/11/2023 for all Humanitarian Operations.

#### 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.

<sup>43</sup> See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding (November 2022) available on DG ECHO WebSite (dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu)

<sup>44</sup> Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

<sup>45</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.  
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 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>4635</sup>

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

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

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

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

The HIP Policy Annex should be consulted in parallel.

#### **For all country operations, the Single Form should ensure:**

- All interventions must be evidence-based and built on robust and continuous needs assessments, to enable agile response to sudden onset of needs.
- Actions must be based on a solid comprehensive all risk analysis (threats, hazards, vulnerabilities, and capacities) and adequate preparedness plan. Protection, gender, age and disability analysis should inform the response strategy.
- Interventions must respect humanitarian principles, and in particular the principle of impartiality and *avoid doing harm*.
- Mainstreaming of protection, gender, age and disability inclusion based on the comprehensive all-risks analysis, will be a pre-condition for selection. This includes considering strategies to prevent risks of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and appropriate measures ensuring inclusion of people living with disabilities in proposed actions.
- To that end, the actions, must include independent complaints and follow-up

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<sup>46</sup> In accordance with the relevant section of the Single Form guidelines (section10)

mechanisms accessible to all beneficiaries, to allow for adjustments of projects so that the quality of assistance can meet the expectations of beneficiaries.

- DG ECHO partners should demonstrate synergies to identify common methodologies for data collection, analysis, and response. Effective and transparent coordination remains crucial.
- Humanitarian advocacy must be addressed through coordinated and evidence-based actions in all proposals.

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.

### **Transfer 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, including the sector-specific considerations in Annex 3 of the policy. In addition, programmes above EUR 10 m 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, 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.

DG-ECHO promotes a **harmonised approach** under the coordination of the CWG to define the MEB and Transfer Values (TV) for harmonised response. DG-ECHO always

requires justifications on how the TV is defined to adequately cover or contribute to household emergency basic needs and if it should be complemented by other relevant sectoral interventions which cannot be met through cash. Providing an additional transfer (cash or other modality) for particularly vulnerable individuals or households shall be considered.

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’. 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.

When responding through MPC, alongside DG-ECHO Sectoral Key Outcome Indicators, DG-ECHO recommends the use of the Grand Bargain Cash Workstream indicators to measure the extent basic needs are met.

At Specific Objective level:

- ❖ **Protection mainstreaming** using the [guidance](#): “% of beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex, age and diversity) reporting that humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable and participatory manner”.
- ❖ **Livelihood Coping Strategy** “% of HH no longer in Livelihood Coping Strategy Index Phase Crisis or Emergency”. (LCS) using the WFP methodology outlined in its [Essential Needs Assessment guidance \(see p20\)](#).

Given that large percentages of the MPC assistance is used to cover food needs, it is recommended to also systematically use the **Food Consumption Score (FCS)** and the **reduced Coping Strategy Index (r-CSI)**.

At result level, DG-ECHO recommends the use of:

- ❖ *Percentage of households who report being able to meet their basic needs as they define and prioritize them* measured using the standardized scale (all/most/half/some/none) as per guidance provided by the Grand Bargain MPC Indicators.

Partners are also encouraged to systematically examine the distribution of expenditure within and across households, the extent to which actual expenditures align with MEB, and if a HH's total monthly expenditure is above or below the threshold of the MEB value and to which extent the TV was adequate. To this extent, the GB has developed two indicators. Option 1: *“Percentage of households with total monthly expenditure which exceeds the MEB”*. Option 2: *“Total monthly expenditures by sector relative to MEB sectoral components/amounts”*

In consideration of DG-ECHO sustained commitment to expand cash transfer while adapting to challenges (e.g., inflation, cash liquidity, disrupted financial services), the operational feasibility of cash modality should systematically be analysed to ensure flexibility and adaptive approaches.

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

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

### **Humanitarian Food Assistance**

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

**Unconditional cash** is the default modality for meeting food / basic needs. Conditionalities might be considered using vouchers, if specifically designed to facilitate access to fresh foods and if it makes sense from a cost-efficiency and effectiveness standpoint, can ensure better food diversity outcomes than other modalities, and hence reinforce the nutrition outcomes of food assistance.

Labour intensive conditionalities (CfW / FfW) are never acceptable if the purpose of the assistance is to meet food and basic needs.

Despite challenges of the global inflation of food and basic commodities, DG-ECHO renews its commitment to using cash for food assistance. To continue to maintain cost-efficiency and meet outcomes in contexts of high inflation and currency depreciation, partners should design from the outset of the Action SOPs to adapt TV and frequency to the price of the food basket, including: i) increase frequency, number of items and coverage of market monitoring and develop modalities to share analysis; ii) analysis of ECHO/-AS/BUD/2023/91000

impact of inflation on different modalities; iii) monitoring of official and parallel exchange rates; iv) change frequency and number of distribution to preserve the purchasing power of TV; v) switch from unrestricted cash assistance to either value vouchers, commodity vouchers or in-kind assistance, or a combination thereof. None of these options are mutually exclusive and their feasibility also depends on regulatory environment.

Under the lead of the CWG and FSC/WG, partners are expected to collectively agree on triggers and share approaches on the above.

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

### **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>47</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>48</sup>.

The HIP Policy Annex should be consulted in parallel.

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

### **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.

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<sup>47</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>48</sup> [ ref. to be added when published]

## (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). ]

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

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

DG ECHO strives to achieve more coherent and complementary planning, programming and financing, through increased cooperation and coordination between humanitarian, development and peace actors. A shared analysis of risks, needs, vulnerabilities, dynamics and cross-shared information on field realities is the basis of DG ECHO's programming and is systematically developed and updated.

In order to achieve the most effective use of resources, DG INTPA and DG ECHO multiply their efforts to promote rationalisation and operational coordination, within our own institutions and with other donors and partners, e.g. UN, INGOs and the World Bank. DG ECHO will ensure that Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) policies work



together while protecting our mandate, principles and perception.

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

### **Environmental Requirements**

The minimum environmental requirements should be applied through a ‘mainstreaming’ approach with environmental impacts mitigated across sectors, projects and programs and therefore not implemented as stand-alone or parallel actions to the response activities with the aim to consider the environment holistically when designing and implementing actions. The requirements will apply to all sectors with special attention on mitigating the negative environmental impacts in protracted, chronic situations; responses linked to humanitarian settlements or sites and activities that cause natural resource depletion, including deforestation; exploitation of water sources; air/water/land pollution (e.g., uncontrolled waste disposal linked to humanitarian settlements/sites as well as to communal facilities such as schools, health centres and distribution centres). WASH and Shelter & Settlements programming carry one of the highest risks of negative environmental impacts among humanitarian activities, while at the same time representing an opportunity to minimise potential environmental impacts, (which should be mitigated from the onset) by thorough assessments/screenings and robust environmental management.

The environment and disasters are inherently linked and therefore integrating environmental considerations in the disaster risk reduction and preparedness frameworks and response tools at local and regional levels should be considered to improve their efficacy with the aim to minimizing hazards and increase the resilience of the local communities. Environmental degradation affects natural processes, increases vulnerability, lessens overall resilience, and challenges traditional coping strategies. The DP trainings, workshops and other tools should therefore integrate environmental screenings, risk-mitigation exercises and/or environmental aspects relevant for a specific context and needs, especially the ones that directly aggravate disaster risk aspects (e.g., deforestation of slopes leading to an increased landslide hazard, removal of mangroves increasing the damage caused by storm surges, solid waste accumulation in drainage systems increasing flooding risks, etc.).

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

In view of the importance of logistics for humanitarian operations, DG ECHO remains also committed to contribute to logistics operations, via funding or any other tool, such as the European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC), at its disposal.”

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 on the basis of 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).

## **AFGHANISTAN**

**Prioritization - Actions in underserved areas** and support to local civil society capacity building will be prioritised when based on sound needs assessment and providing the partner demonstrates capacity to implement and play an active role in information sharing and other coordination mechanisms at field level. **Support** logistics, access, safety and security are understood to be **essential to proper management of safe and accountable implementation** in Afghanistan. DG ECHO will support efficient use of these resources and address gaps in humanitarian infrastructure. Additional support lines such as parallel supply routes and/or buffer stocks including storage will be considered where their use in the reach of most vulnerable populations and in line with Do No Harm practices is demonstrated soundly.

**Requirements for ALL Actions (regardless of the sectors of intervention)** – The following elements are **prerequisites for funding** to be considered, and must be demonstrated in every proposal – in the eSF and/or its annexes:

- i. **Integration of protection mainstreaming** in all aspects of the action; use of the DG ECHO Protection Mainstreaming Key Outcome Indicator (PM KOI);
- ii. Operationalisation of: **accountability to affected populations; gender, age and disability** sensitivity, and **PSEA** protocols.
- iii. **Timely localised needs assessments** and pre-defined access and geographical scope.
- iv. Relevant **technical and operational presence** in country and in the targeted areas.
- v. **Detailed targeting approach** specifying how inclusiveness will be reflected and discrimination avoided. Clear explanations where “no regrets” and blanket approaches are applied including their suitability and re-evaluation.
- vi. Reflect **seasonality**, floods, recurrent outbreaks, agricultural calendar etc.; and winterization **plans** (extended to winter 2024 when relevant).
- vii. **Alignment with relevant clusters/working groups/inter-cluster strategies and plans**; and demonstrated active role in both **decentralized and centralised coordination structures**.
- viii. **Engagement** should be grounded in comprehensive **assessments at community level** to be accompanied by a real time and proactive coordination strategy including **engagement protocols with stakeholders** mirroring humanitarian principles.
- ix. The **choice of the intervention modality** (cash, vouchers, in-kind, service provision) must be informed and **justified by a robust response analysis** reflecting the context, expected results and feasibility to deliver assistance safely.

**Multi-sector rapid response to sudden onset crises** - DG ECHO aims at strengthening rapid response to any type of “new crisis/shock” in Afghanistan (natural-induced hazards, epidemics, man-made – including but not limited to/ new displacement). **Flexibility**

**should be embedded into proposed actions to strengthen early response capacity:** partners are encouraged to integrate DG ECHO Crisis Modifier<sup>49</sup> in their actions, based on their areas and sectors of expertise. The use of standardized/common multi-sectoral needs assessment tools should be enhanced. The probability/scenarios of sudden onset crises must be determined based on a comprehensive risk-informed analysis. Humanitarian emergency prepositioning and stockpiling can be considered from the perspective of resource pooling or specifically localized in remote/isolated areas. Various modalities of intervention can be used (in cash, in kind) depending on community preferences and timeliness of the response. For cash-based modalities, assessment of market functionality will be essential. The establishment of a framework built on a “stop-gap” response to immediate lifesaving needs and on the prevention of further deterioration should be considered and the inclusion of communities demonstrated (in preparedness, alert and/or early response stages). Referral mechanisms and protection elements should be strengthened from the initial assessment stage.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** interventions will prioritize four main pillars:

- **Integrated WASH response to AWD outbreaks:** priority will be given to water borne epidemic with high fatality rate. WASH interventions should be integrated within the emergency health response aiming at preventing the spread of the disease through a timely case targeted response.
- **Natural disaster** (flood, earthquake) response which will include support to WASH items prepositioning and deployment capacity. Support to core pipelines and deployment contingencies (capacity building, crisis modifier) are seen as key response modalities.
- Due to its structural nature, **drought** cannot be a standalone entry point for ECHO supported WASH interventions. It can nevertheless complement other sectors interventions (such as Health, Education in Emergency). Moreover, the systematic & consistent documentation of WASH interventions across actors is seen as a significant contribution to better understand the underground water resource potential & dynamic. ECHO consider its mainstreaming as a prerequisite of any WASH interventions.
- In the absence of development funds, **support to underserved areas** formerly inaccessible due to access constraints, is considered as relevant when designed as a first response integrated in a long term approach, which will eventually be continued by basic human needs/development actors or funds.

Targeting will include risk analysis, focusing on population groups for whom lack of sustainable access to sufficient and good quality water and sanitation may lead to life-threatening consequences and who adopted risky coping mechanisms. Gender risk mitigation elements must be included into work plans, assessment, and monitoring tools. Actions should aim to support the implementation of infection prevention and control measures within households and communities prioritizing acute watery diseases and cholera outbreak areas. Coordination and fluid information sharing between sectors (WASH and Health in particular) will be a key component to increase responses' efficiency.

An effective response will need to reflect a coordinated dynamic within the WASH

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<sup>49</sup> Annex 2 of the DG ECHO Disaster Preparedness Guidance Note (2021) [https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-02/dg\\_echo\\_guidance\\_note\\_-\\_disaster\\_preparedness\\_en.pdf](https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-02/dg_echo_guidance_note_-_disaster_preparedness_en.pdf)

Cluster for effective pre-positioning of items, particularly in areas at risk and strengthening the role of communities as first responders. The WASH cluster role in pooling resources of the core pipeline supply management is essential, as well as strengthening localized referral mechanisms, trend analysis, surveys and prioritization.

**Protection** - DG ECHO will prioritise project designs grounded in district level analysis of protection risks, and essential mapping (validated by Protection or relevant sub-clusters) of protection and other relevant basic services such as Health, Education, WASH and Nutrition. Integrated programming design includes as a minimum a package of **screening, referrals and at least two sectors of service delivery** delivered at the same time to an individual/community i.e., a complimentary sector (e.g., WASH, Health, Education, Nutrition) and protection service delivery. Integrated or standalone Protection, SGBV and Child Protection proposals must include a package of actions that encompass screening of protection cases, all stages of case management, inclusiveness mechanisms, tracked full referral process and coordination. Other standalone actions can include protection monitoring, legal assistance/HLP, explosive ordinance risks (Explosive Ordinance Risk Education, non-technical surveys, clearance, victim assistance), and monitoring and response to grave violations of International Humanitarian, Human Rights and Refugee Law or of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. DG ECHO's response to returns of displaced population will be contextualised, and guided by the humanitarian principles, a protection approach, and a vulnerability focus. *Prevention and mitigation of protection cases (e.g., displacement, violence, sexual exploitation, or abuse) should be integrated* within a package of response activities to prioritise active cases in need of response whilst capitalizing on any opportunities to prevent further cases in real time.

**Education in Emergencies (EiE)** - Any out of school child is a priority where he/she faces barriers to access learning. Actions should be needs driven based on primary assessments including specific child protection needs analysis and responses. Appropriate accelerated education measures should be integrated within project designs, aligned to Conflict Sensitive Education principles grounded in an integrated education and **child protection** response i.e., child safeguarding in any location used for education, ensuring all adults present are accountable to a code of conduct, the provision of Psychological First Aid and Psychosocial Support as learning and teaching aid for students and teachers, and referral and responses to child protection needs of learners, in line with DG ECHO MHPSS guidelines. Training actions can include Community Based Education Policy minimum standards for literacy to teach grade 1-3, conflict or high stress pedagogic methods etc. Teachers and students should be provided with the relevant materials and skills to progressively learn towards a realistic and meaningful outcome. Learning outcomes and transition plans to full time schools must be clearly articulated (i.e. enrolment is not a sufficient outcome). Follow up strategies to mitigate absenteeism and drop-out once students are transitioned should also be reflected. Modalities should reinforce any excluded group (e.g., girls) inclusion in education; notably considering how to include any groups who have yet to begin or continue their education.

**Food assistance & livelihoods protection** - Targeting for food assistance (in-kind or cash-based) shall be based on localised risk profiling and contingency plans and prioritize populations facing the most acute levels of food insecurity (IPC 3 and above, with priority to IPC 5 and IPC 4), aiming at avoiding life-threatening effects and consequences of food insecurity and malnutrition, including worsening of extreme coping strategies and/or displacement. DG ECHO will also consider protection and restoration of livelihoods and

building resilience, including critical agricultural and livestock assets, with a particular focus on vulnerable farmers and pastoralists about to abandon their agropastoral livelihoods and migrate to urban areas. Seasonality and agropastoral calendars should guide the choice of intervention to ensure effective and timely assistance. Type, duration, amount, and modality of the assistance shall be coordinated and harmonised among actors and based on markets assessments, land access and protection mainstreaming. Emergency livelihood-support interventions may include (examples, not limited to): i) livestock support (feeds, vaccination, and animal husbandry); and ii) agricultural inputs to vulnerable farmers. **Labour intensive conditionalities (CfW/FfW) are never accepted by DG ECHO if the assistance is intended to meet food and basic needs;** “soft” conditionalities might be considered when intended to achieve specific sectoral outcomes.

**Health and Nutrition** Priority will be given to projects which ensure continuity to access in health care, from lifesaving and emergency response to critical primary health care including a holistic approach that addresses sudden shocks and their consequences, building on a resilience approach. Immediate life and quality of life-saving actions should include a comprehensive package of support including where relevant surgery, rehabilitation, malnutrition screening and management, immunisation, maternal and infant healthcare, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and sexual and reproductive healthcare. Comprehensive responses are assumed to build on community-based mobilization, surveillance, chain supplies and reinforcement of **functional referral pathways (complicated malnutrition caseloads, psychiatric needs, physiotherapy and rehabilitation, etc.)**. Services may be delivered via any modality once demonstrated to be best suited in terms of safe, and equitable access for the population. Approaches should be **coordinated within the broader national healthcare system**. Outreach services implemented through mobile modalities must be designed as part of a transition period with defined timeframes, aiming to establish sustained and comprehensive health care services through development of direct service delivery, capacity building, rehabilitation, minor reconstruction, avoiding pull factors away from quality functioning services. Outreach and mobile services are preferred for communities without any other means of access to healthcare or immediately following a crisis where healthcare physical infrastructure has been impaired or destroyed with the aim to avoid disrupted services following a humanitarian crisis. Pre-positioning and essential supplies and commodities focusing on nutrition, trauma, and epidemic kits can be supported by DG ECHO.

As regards **multi purpose cash assistance (MPCA)**, the use of the services by legally registered cash transfer agents in Afghanistan can be approved as eligible expenditure in the framework of DG ECHO grant or contribution agreements (including costs extension) to be signed within 12 months as of the date of publication of this HITPA, and with the application of a maximum of 5% of each amount transferred through the concerned cash transfer agent, in line with the principles of reasonable and justified costs and of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency. At the latest in the final report, the Partner shall provide a justification for the use of such cash transfer agents as a temporary and last resort option as well as information as to internal control measures in place to mitigate the risks associated with the use of such agents, such as risk of diversion of funds to persons or entities designated under the EU sanctions or to entities engaged in illicit activities. Beyond cash programmes, such agents can also be used under the same conditions as above where cash transfers are necessary on a last resort basis to meet Partners’ organisational and operational needs (such as paying staff or suppliers).

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**PAKISTAN**

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

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

**Flood response:** Complementary to sectoral guidance – Partners are recommended to design the flood response intervention to meet urgent needs according to technical standards as well as early recovery intervention within the project timeframe while maintaining an inclusive approach. Partners should ensure nexus linkages with early recovery, rehabilitation and development resources. It is key to ensure the inclusiveness of the response, particularly including Afghan refugees and other vulnerable groups at risk of exclusion.

**Protection:** Strengthening protection services including referral pathways as well as access to justice and legal assistance for Afghans. Prevention of and response to SGBV, child protection and case management will remain a key priority. Furthermore, particular attention should be paid to joint advocacy to safeguard the protection space for Afghans regardless of their status in country as well as issuance of key documents (birth certificate, driving licenses, etc) as envisioned under the Solution Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) workplan for Pakistan.

**Health and Nutrition:** With a focus on refugee hosting areas, the strategy foresees the continued access to integrated primary health care and nutrition services for both Afghans and host population. Support to the provision of health services in refugee settlements will remain a key priority, when and if handover to Government-led services is not yet operationally feasible.

**Basic Needs:** Support to basic needs for newly arrived Afghans can be considered if duly justified. DG ECHO prioritises multipurpose cash transfers (MPCT) to meet basic needs, complemented by other modalities, as appropriate, and timely referrals, to meet specific sectoral outcomes. Enhanced coordination and coherence across sectors among the humanitarian agencies will be required. DG ECHO expects partners to harmonise their SOPs for cash operations including triggers to periodically adapt to market fluctuations the Transfer Value (TV) and the number of rounds of distribution. Amounts used for the TV and rounds of distributions shall be determined according to clear stated objectives (food sectoral outcomes versus multisectoral outcomes) and adequate to meet humanitarian objectives, while complementing and coordinated with Government led response.

**Education in Emergencies (EiE):** Access to education for Afghan children will remain a key priority. DG ECHO’s support will target out-of-school children (OOSC) and children already enrolled in formal education but at risk of dropping out, with the aim to promote their (re)integration, attendance and retention in formal education, while ensuring a safe and effective access to school. Partners must propose tailored Non-Formal Education

(NFE) activities which are adapted to each child’s specific learning and academic needs to provide the most relevant pathways (in terms of type and duration of the support) to enter, re-enter or stay in the formal education system, while also focusing on ensuring effective quality learning outcomes. EiE actions should encompass the objectives of access to learning, ensuring quality learning and ensuring a protective learning environment. EiE proposals are expected to integrate child protection activities (case identification, case management, PSS, referrals, etc.) either in the form of direct service delivery or through referral to specialised services. Partners are encouraged to consider innovative and sustainable learning frameworks in their design and response strategies and adhering to DG ECHO’s thematic policy on Education in Emergencies.

**Disaster Preparedness:** Considering weak national risk governance<sup>50</sup> and ownership<sup>51</sup>, DG ECHO recommends proposals detail a targeted preparedness investment to make future response operations more efficient and timely. This theme fits all four DG ECHO DP BL priorities 2021-24<sup>52</sup>.

At local level, the above means better people empowerment to make the right decisions at the right time for themselves, through access to enhanced quality and usable information and data they can relate to. A more efficient response would be one informed by more layered, inter-linked, real-time data, which combines hydro-meteorological and socio-economic vulnerability, so that disaster triggers are integrated inter-departmentally within (existing) governmental systems. This would ultimately contribute to achieve better preparedness, although care should be taken to identify clearly in the proposals how the proposed targeted interventions tackle critical gaps. The identification and prioritization of the proposed targeted interventions must be detailed, rather than addressing in a substitutive manner long-standing/pre-existing vulnerability, governance challenges and in general fragility. Specifically, it is recommended to shift from hydro-meteorological analysis (“how weather will be”) provided by the Pakistan Meteorological Department to impact-based forecasting<sup>53</sup> (“what weather will do”). Any preparedness investment in Pakistan should continue to adopt an approach that works at scale.

Joined-up, comprehensive multi-risk analysis, inclusive of all relevant stakeholders and partners, combined with identification of complementary response strategies (rather than single agency approaches) in areas proposed for intervention, should be presented as a pre-condition for seeking financing. An annex detailing the pre-condition should be included to any proposal. In addition, influencing the definition of training curricula, manuals, guidelines for the Pakistan Administrative Service and the Provincial Administrative Service of targeted provinces with regards to delineation of roles, functions and technical competency, should be fostered.

Priority will be given to target regions of the country where conflict and fragility (human-induced) risks, such as influx of Afghan refugees, add drivers to hydro-meteorological, geo-physical and changing climate risks.

<sup>50</sup> The system of institutions, mechanisms, policy and legal frameworks and other arrangements to guide, coordinate and oversee disaster risk reduction and related areas of policy.

<sup>51</sup> Risk ownership is the one constant in a highly changeable risk landscape; where there is a risk, there needs to be risk owner. If a risk is not owned, it is very likely not being managed.

<sup>52</sup> Risk-based and anticipatory actions; Preparedness in conflict and fragile settings; Climate and environmental resilience; Urban preparedness

<sup>53</sup> Impact-based forecasting combines a forecast of a weather or climate hazard and an assessment of possible impacts, including when, where and how likely the impacts are.

## **IRAN**

DG ECHO's operational strategy will continue to focus on the most vulnerable protracted caseload as well as of and response to SGBV and child protection will likewise be a key priority. Protection and basic services including advocacy on the protection space for new refugee influxes are strongly encouraged.

**Health:** Priority will be given to health interventions that enable access to Primary Health Care system (PHC) for vulnerable Afghans and host communities in refugee hosting areas. DG ECHO will not support the premiums for registered Afghan refugees to access the national health insurance scheme. However, support measures to assist the most vulnerable refugees that are not eligible for the national health insurance scheme or are unable to afford medical treatment will be considered.

**Basic Needs:** Cognisant of the impact of the current economic situation on refugees, integrated multi-sectoral or cross-sectoral approaches that aim at meeting basic needs of Afghans will be pursued. Multi-purpose cash transfers (MPCT) to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable Afghans in complementarity with referral to services and protection, is favoured. MPCT shall be coordinated by the cash working group (CWG). Given the high inflation and currency depreciation in Iran, partners shall continuously monitor the cost of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and market accessibility to proactively adjust the value and periodicity of the cash transfer and adapt the assistance to the evolving context.

**Education in Emergencies (EiE):** Access to education for Afghan children remains a key priority. DG ECHO will support education activities that assist vulnerable refugees to enter, re-enter and be retained in formal education (FE). This may involve non-formal education (NFE) to provide pathways for children to transition into formal education, or support to children to directly enter and be retained in FE (including remedial education). Appropriate accelerated education measures<sup>54</sup> must be part of the strategy. EiE actions should encompass the objectives of access to learning, ensuring quality learning and ensuring a protective learning environment. EiE proposals are expected to integrate child protection activities (case identification, case management, PSS, referrals, etc.) either in the form of direct service delivery or through referral to specialised services. When protection activities are proposed towards an education outcome, the relation between education and protection must be clearly explained, starting from a sound intervention logic, which includes demonstrated effort towards sustained educational participation and quality learning outcomes.

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

**Disaster Preparedness:** DG ECHO's proposed strategy will be anchored in and complementing the Iranian government's national and local disaster management systems. With a strong people-centred approach, it will operate in synergy with existing government structures and systems. Attention should be placed to ensure adequate and impartial coverage of risks and needs, with a particular focus on most neglected

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<sup>54</sup> Please refer to [https://inec.org/system/files/resources/AEWG\\_COVID19\\_%20Decision%20Tree\\_screen.pdf](https://inec.org/system/files/resources/AEWG_COVID19_%20Decision%20Tree_screen.pdf)  
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geographical areas and vulnerable groups. Partners are expected to ensure a multi-risk lens along the pillars of strengthening provincial disaster preparedness policies and systems to enhance resilience especially of those who are most vulnerable and at risk, particularly in communities hosting refugees; reinforcing logistics response capacity and capability of humanitarian partners and stakeholders through contingency stockpiling and prepositioning; and increased communities' awareness to the risks they face.