

TECHNICAL ANNEX

SOUTHERN AFRICA AND INDIAN OCEAN¹

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 ² /D3
Contact persons at HQ	Ulrika Conradsson, ulrika.conradsson@ec.europa.eu for Lesotho, Eswatini, Comoros Islands, Seychelles, Mauritius, Malawi, South Africa, Namibia and Botswana Ruben Hake, ruben.hake1@ec.europa.eu for Angola, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe Alessia Cioni, Alessia.cioni@ec.europa.eu for Mozambique and Madagascar
in the field	Alexandre Castellano (Head of Office), alexandre.castellano@echofield.eu for Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, and South Africa Sylvie Montembault, sylvie.montembault@echofield.eu for Comoros Islands, Madagascar, Namibia and Zimbabwe Michele Angeletti, michele.angeletti@echofield.eu for Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and Zambia

¹ This HIP covers the following countries in the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region (SAIO): Angola, Botswana, Comoros Islands, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

² Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)

2. FINANCIAL INFO

Indicative Allocation³: **EUR 57 038 286** of which an indicative amount of **EUR 3 500 000** 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 2023⁴. Part of the allocation of this HIP could therefore also be attributed to these new Programmatic Partnerships.

Indicative breakdown per Actions as per Worldwide Decision (in euros)⁵:

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
Madagascar	14 124 907				14 124 907
Mozambique	23 000 000				23 000 000
Zimbabwe	4 000 000				4 000 000
Eswatini	1 877 666				1 877 666
Zambia	1 604 155				1 604 155
Regional (<i>where applicable</i>)	2 000 000		10 000 000		12 000 000
Programmatic Partnership Communication & Coordination*	431 558				431 558
TOTAL	47 038 286		10 000 000		57 038 286

*In the framework of the pilot Programmatic Partnership with IFRC

³ 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.

⁴ More information can be found in the 'Guidance to Partners – DG ECHO Programmatic partnerships 2023' <https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/ngo/humanitarian-partnership-2021-2027/programmatic-partnership>

⁵ For flexibility and fast responsiveness purposes, this breakdown can be adjusted within certain limits based on newly arising needs.

3. PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT

a) Co-financing:

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

b) Financial support to third parties (implementing partners)

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

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

c) Alternative arrangements

In case of country or crisis-specific issues or unforeseeable circumstances, which arise during the implementation of the action, the Commission (DG ECHO) may issue specific ad-hoc instructions which partners must follow. Partners may also introduce via the Single Form duly justified requests for alternative arrangements to be agreed by the Commission (DG ECHO) in accordance with Annex 5 to the Grant Agreement.

d) Field office costs

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

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

- ii. 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

- iii. 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. In this perspective DG ECHO will renew its engagement with UNOCHA in the framework of the Programmatic Partnership Agreement started in 2022 for a maximum amount of EUR 500,000. To be also noted that the IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership action 'Accelerating local action in humanitarian and health crises' is currently being implemented in Eswatini, Madagascar, Zambia although not financially covered by the SAIO HIP.

New possibilities for Programmatic Partnership (PP) can be explored under Pillar 3, sector 6, focusing on Disaster Preparedness (DP) at regional level. DG ECHO would consider a Programmatic Partnership approach with a multiannual perspective for two years or more specifically for DP in urban preparedness. The geographical scope would be the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region. Partners/Consortia of partners would need to have a strong expertise in the specific sectors of urban taking into account previous and ongoing actions funded by ECHO.

f) Regional and multi-country actions

Regional/multi-country actions can be supported under this HIP (and where relevant in conjunction with other HIPs⁶), 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.

⁶ 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**

- a) Indicative amount: at least **EUR 18 000 000**
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: This assessment round will exclusively allocate the funding for **Madagascar and Mozambique** in the three pillars in view of reinforcing 2022 DG ECHO's response respectively - under pillar 1 - to the acute levels of food insecurity and undernutrition in Grand-South and East and to the complex crisis in Cabo Delgado Province; under pillar 2 to support the Education sector and under pillar 3 to reinforce the Disaster Preparedness. This assessment round will also allocate funding for priority 3 aiming at reinforcing **regional response capacities under Pillar 1** (emergency response).
- c) Costs will be eligible from **01/ 01/ 2023**⁷
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more⁸ provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner. 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 or more and a total duration of the modified action of up to 48 months (actions that had already been extended with contributions from HIPs of 2 different years should preferably be submitted as a new action).

Education in Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness actions should have an initial duration of at least 24 months, unless there is a needs- or context-based justification for a shorter duration. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point 3e)⁹.
- e) Potential partners¹⁰: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions¹¹
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by **09/01/2023**¹²

⁷ 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.

⁸ Maximum duration of an action is 48 months

⁹ Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

¹⁰ Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

¹¹ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

¹² 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.

Allocation round 2

- a) Indicative amount: up to **EUR 10 000 000**
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: This assessment round will exclusively allocate the funding for Pillar 3 for Lesotho, Malawi, Zimbabwe and regional projects.
- c) Costs will be eligible from **01/ 01/ 2023**¹³
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more¹⁴ provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner. 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 or more and a total duration of the modified action of up to 48 months (actions that had already been extended with contributions from HIPs of 2 different years should preferably be submitted as a new action).

Education in Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness actions should have an initial duration of at least 24 months, unless there is a needs- or context-based justification for a shorter duration. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point 3e)¹⁵.

- e) Potential partners¹⁶: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions¹⁷
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by **16/01/2023**¹⁸

Allocation round 3

- a) Indicative amount: **EUR 18 000 000:**
 - EUR 12 000 000 for Mozambique,
 - EUR 6 000 000 for Madagascar
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: This assessment round will exclusively allocate funding to Mozambique

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ Maximum duration of an action is 48 months

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

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

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

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

and Madagascar. Same priorities as those identified in allocation round 1 will apply

- c) Costs will be eligible from **01/ 01/ 2023**¹⁹
- d) Duration of the Action: same as in assessment round 1.
- e) Potential partners²⁰: Partners having submitted proposals under allocation round 1.
- f) Information to be provided: N/A
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: N/A

Allocation round 4

- a) Indicative amount: **EUR 4 000 000** for Zimbabwe
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: This assessment round will exclusively allocate funding to Zimbabwe. The response will focus on with multi-purpose cash operations integrating protection in urban areas. Mainstreaming protection is a requirement. Please refer to pillar 1 priorities 4 as well as the below section 4.1.2. Specific operational guidelines and operational assessment criteria.
- c) Costs will be eligible from **01/ 06/ 2023**²¹
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more²² provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner.
- e) Potential partners²³: WFP, as the internationally mandated agency for food assistance
- f) Information to be provided: Single form.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: **21/02/2023**²⁴

¹⁹ The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest. In case of amendments to existing agreements, the eligible date will however be the eligible date set in the initial agreement.

²⁰ Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

²¹ 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.

²² Maximum duration of an action is 48 months

²³ Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

²⁴ 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.

Allocation round 5

- a) Indicative amount: unallocated amount under previous allocation rounds for **Malawi only - Disaster Preparedness budget line – up to EUR 2.35 million.**
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions related to this assessment round: conditions and priorities mentioned under the Disaster Preparedness section of the updated 4.1.2.2 Country-specific Priorities of this Technical Annex for Malawi.
- c) Costs will be eligible as of **01/09/2023**²⁵
- d) Potential partners²⁶: DG ECHO Partners with demonstrated experience in implementing disaster preparedness actions in Malawi.
- e) Information to be provided: new proposals or modification requests of ongoing DG ECHO-funded operations.
- f) Deadline for submission of proposals: by **03/09/2023**²⁷

Allocation round 6

- a) Indicative amount: up to **EUR 7 038 286**
- b) Costs will be eligible²⁸ as of 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: Eswatini, Madagascar, Zambia
- d) Information to be provided: Single form²⁹

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?

²⁵ 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.

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

²⁷ 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.

²⁸ 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.

²⁹ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

- 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 contributes 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?³⁰

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).

³⁰ In accordance with the relevant section of the Single Form guidelines (section10)

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, last mile delivery 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 of at least 24 months. Projects will have to 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.

For cash activities: 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 Annexe 3 of that document. In addition, programmes above EUR10 million 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. 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. 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 Deal³¹.

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 projects³². The minimum environmental requirements should be applied through a 'mainstreaming' approach with environmental impacts mitigated across sectors, projects and programmes with the aim to consider the environment holistically when designing and implementing actions; therefore not implemented as stand-alone or parallel actions to the response activities. 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.

³¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

³² https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/climate-change-and-environment_en

The HIP and 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 onset crisis.

(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 multisector 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 X persons, lifesaving response within X days from alert/crisis, and/or need assessment within X days from the displacement/disaster/alert/exceeded triggers). Partners will be expected to conduct direct or joint protection risk analysis prior to any response.

(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 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).

Food security and livelihood

Also, developing sound strategies encouraging linkages with more sustainable and locally-led solutions is key: In line with ECHO's *communication on the EU's humanitarian action: new challenges, same principles* 2021³³ which commits to *expand support for cash-based, shock-responsive social safety nets*, linkages with development-funded transfer schemes need to be systematically established by partners involved in direct transfers at scale (any modality), whilst respecting protection and humanitarian principles. This requires shared **initial technical assessments** to explore feasible linkages at policy, coordination, programme design or delivery chain levels, and **response planning** accordingly. It also requires **support and systematic reporting to a coordination mechanism** tracking all contributions, with a view to ensure an adequate response to urgent needs with regards to adequacy, coverage, comprehensiveness of the assistance package provided, by mobilising all available funding streams available during the peak of a crisis in a holistic perspective. It also requires joint investment by partners in evidence-building, showcasing and advocacy.

Disaster Preparedness

In line with ECHO's commitment to expand support for shock-responsive social safety nets, the feasibility of linkages with, and technical support to national social protection and disaster management systems is to be explored systematically by partners during **risk assessments**, and **response planning** to be ensured accordingly.

4.1.2.2. Country-Specific Priorities

PILLAR 1: Emergency Response

The main **objective** of **this Pillar** is to provide needs-based, rapid and lifesaving humanitarian aid to populations affected by climate and human induced disasters. There are **three priorities** under this pillar as described below.

Priority 1: Northern Mozambique (Cabo Delgado crisis) – Multi-sector and life-saving humanitarian assistance

This priority aims at providing life-saving humanitarian assistance to conflict affected populations including internally displaced populations and their host communities. Actions under this priority will be supported in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa Provinces, but also in other areas affected by armed violence / conflict that may emerge during the HIP period, as a consequence of the Cabo Delgado crisis spill-over.

The following sectors and type of action will be prioritised:

³³ <https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/hacommunication2021.pdf>

Protection - Protection interventions are part of a comprehensive framework demonstrating compliance with IHL. Humanitarian protection interventions aim to prevent, reduce, mitigate and respond to the risks and consequences of violence, coercion, deliberate deprivation and abuse to individuals, groups and communities in the context of humanitarian crises. Stand-alone and integrated protection approaches are encouraged to maximize impact.

Protection activities should restore a protective environment for civilians affected by conflict and internal displacement, with a particular focus on child protection, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), Protection against Sexual Exploitation, and Abuse (PSEA), child recruitment, and mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS). Upstream, monitoring of protection incidents will be a key activity to track trends. Finally, to support a quality response/service, protection case management and referral activities need to be factored into humanitarian interventions. The design and targeting of interventions should be based on a protection needs analysis based on the risk equation. Finally, data collection of protection concerns must lead to humanitarian protection advocacy towards HCT, authorities and institutions for an improved protective environment for affected populations and increased respect to IHL. Multi-year actions to address long term and systemic consequences of any protection violation would be encouraged. All actors and their respective interventions need to ensure a protective environment to the survivors of conflict. To this extent, partners are required to have in place sound Complaint and Feedback Mechanisms (known, accessible, anonymous, preferably managed by a third party, user friendly, etc.). Partners are invited to explore opportunities for a comprehensive protection multi-year project.

Humanitarian Coordination – information and preparedness management - is instrumental including **civil-military coordination** in view of the multiplicity of armed actors in the context. In this perspective DG ECHO will renew its engagement with UNOCHA in the framework of the Partnership Agreement started in 2022 for a maximum amount of EUR 500,000.

Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA) – Specific action aimed to address the food consumption gap of IDPs and hosted population in the area affected by the armed violence/conflict. As needs are multiple, food assistance shall be part of the **basic needs approach**, integrated within an adequate, comprehensive and harmonized response package (NUT, NFIs, EiE, WASH, shelter, protection etc.) and preferably delivered through cash transfers, including through the adoption of light conditionalities to ensure compliance with government directives. Any conditionality to cash assistance should be justified and adapted as much as possible to the vulnerabilities of the targeted group (for example, women with young children) or in consideration of the agricultural season. **MPC transfer** within a common delivery mechanism and **enhancing multi-sectoral effective referral pathways** (whenever conditions are met). In line with the Minimum Expenditure Basket, partners must justify the **frequency and adequacy of the** response regardless of the modality (**cash/in-kind/vouchers**) **transfer amounts/values** provided, in coordination with other actors, and in accordance with Food Security Cluster and Cash Working Group recommendations. HFA actions, regardless of their modality, should feature a sound Vulnerability-Based Targeting (VBT) to ensure only the most vulnerable households with acute/humanitarian needs are reached by assistance. Furthermore, HFA actions are expected to adopt biometric systems for the beneficiaries' enrolment to avert any potential abuse of the assistance delivered. HFA should also demonstrate adequate cost efficiency

ECHO/-SF/BUD/2023/91000

(TCTR) (refer to the cash policy for more information) alongside other quality programming aspects will be favoured. One off assistance should be avoided as much as possible.

The priority will be given to action focusing on the most at-risk area and with a large coverage in term of areas and number of beneficiaries. Particular attention will be given to the total cost transfer ratio (cost of the action over the total amount of transfer to the beneficiaries). A vulnerability-based assessment/targeting process should be at the base of each proposal (targeting should be launched as early on as possible into any new displacement crisis to ensure most efficient use of resources based on actual needs and avoid aid dependence). Attention should be given to energy needs for cooking, to avoid unintended deforestation.

Nutrition – actions supporting availability and access to the treatment of acute malnutrition (under 5 and PLW's³⁴), timely identification and referral of malnutrition cases through existing programs (i.e. Integrated Mobile Brigades) and strengthening of nutrition commodity supply chain will be prioritised. Support to caregivers should be provided to facilitate referrals, if needed. The implementation of innovative approaches (i.e. MUAC only admission, reduced dosage) are strongly encouraged when increasing efficiency and impact of nutrition program demonstrated as safe for beneficiaries and acceptable by national institutions.

Stockpiling of emergency stocks and related logistics preparedness. DG ECHO encourage the prepositioning of adequate emergency stock to be used for multi-sector response. Emergency prepositioning is a key element for early response and needs to be included, framed and justified within a comprehensive preparedness and response strategy enabling a rapid mobilisation. Preferably, an action should not focus only on prepositioning, but be integrated in other activities in line with the Pillar and Priorities identified for the Northern Mozambique. When embedded into an action, it should be subject of a specific result. Prepositioned stock should be made available to all DG ECHO partners and in particular to the Rapid Response Mechanism. Partners should have a demonstrated solid warehouse stock management system in place. An advocacy component will be embedded to prepare the ground for an exit strategy seeking for Disaster Management Authorities' take over under long-term strategies.

Emergency/Rapid Response Mechanisms (ERMs/RRMs) –DG ECHO aims to continue and to expand the existing RRM already in place and funded by DG ECHO. 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 multi-sector assistance when other response mechanisms are not yet in place. They should include needs assessments, including protection risk analysis prior to any response, as well as integrated protection activities.

³⁴ Pregnant and lactating women

Partners should demonstrate their capacity to deploy **adequate and qualified staff** to respond to complex emergencies and demonstrate having clear **security** procedures in such a tense environment where armed forces, non-state armed groups and humanitarian actors co-exist.

Partners are requested to be active in humanitarian coordination platforms to maximise impact and avoid duplications. When feasible, referral pathways between the different actions/components of a project funded by DG ECHO or by other Donors including development Donors are encouraged. Such referral pathways should be established at the initial stages of implementation.

Actions should promote nexus opportunities, taking into account development funding from EU Delegation, EU Member States and other donors.

Priority 2: Madagascar Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est Humanitarian Food Assistance and Nutrition with a strong integration of protection

Geographical areas: the most affected areas (IPC 3 and above and high Global Acute Malnutrition) in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud Est. Particular attention will be given to the provision of nutrition and food services to remote and most affected communities.

ECHO's emergency funding should focus on **humanitarian food assistance and nutrition, with a strong protection mainstreaming approach** (targeting especially children, pregnant and lactating mothers).

For Nutrition, ECHO will prioritise the actions supporting the access of quality treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition in areas affected by high prevalence of undernutrition and where national capacities are not sufficient. This also includes activities allowing the timely identification and referral of malnutrition cases, provision of life saving primary health care and referral services for severe patients if not already available, and provision of nutrition commodities. The optimisation of allocation of resources through surge mechanisms and integrated interventions are strongly encouraged.

In recognition of the longer-term nature of the determinants of child wasting in Madagascar, all actions are to be developed within the context of an ongoing strategy to strengthen **health systems** to improve coverage and quality of delivering essential actions for optimal nutrition, to prevent malnutrition and provide prevention services, treatment and care when needed.

Integrated Protection programming will be supported to reduce the risk and exposure of the affected population and respond adequately to protection needs (including response to shocks: MHPSS, CP, GBV (via a protection monitoring, fostering community structures and protection networks, referral pathways/case management).

Stand-alone protection programming is not recommended.

The provision of food assistance should be considered through either **in-kind rations and/or cash transfers (where applicable)** in order to meet the required quantity, coverage and time. Attention should be given to energy needs for cooking, to avoid unintended deforestation.

Small scale and filling the gap WASH interventions could be considered only when complementing humanitarian food assistance and nutrition components.

Complementary short-term emergency livelihood activities could be considered for funding, however standalone short term emergency livelihood activities can only be considered when the food consumption gaps are already covered. These activities should aim at (i) supporting short-term strategies for self-reliance and livelihood protection, focusing on the most vulnerable and (ii) contributing to building longer term resilience along a longer-term strategy. Care should be taken to not directly or indirectly incentivise environmentally harmful livelihoods activities.

The mainstreaming of accountability into action is a crucial function that must be given adequate attention. Partners are expected to implement projects that are accessible, inclusive, dignified and safe as clearly described in DG ECHO protection mainstreaming guidance.

It is important that food assistance and humanitarian protection are seen within the broader **social protection** landscape in Madagascar and contribute to enhancing the comprehensiveness, coverage and adequacy of Social Protection systems and programmes. Attention should notably be paid to delivery platforms and infrastructure (mobile apps, management information systems and databases - including integrated beneficiary registries, social registries and monitoring).

Actions should aim at **reinforcing the linkages with the EU Delegations' funding under the upcoming Multiannual Indicative Plan (MIP)** in which the Grand-Sud has been identified for **Triple Nexus**. More investments are particularly needed on resilience-building and capacity strengthening activities to support affected communities' livelihood in areas recurrently affected by climate shocks.

Priority 3: Strengthening early action capacities

ECHO encourages multiple but strategic location prepositioning of adequate emergency stocks to be used for multi-sector responses. Priority countries: Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

The emergency kits prepositioned should be principally designed in function of recurrent floods and cyclones events and the need to provide immediate relief operation.

The action should also include a budget for cash transfer to be implemented swiftly following a cyclone and / or flood where markets remain functional and accessible to the beneficiaries to purchase the necessary items.

Emergency prepositioning should be framed and justified within a comprehensive preparedness and response strategy, with adequate trigger mechanisms and emergency thresholds pre-identified, enabling a rapid mobilisation and made available to other ECHO partners.

An advocacy component must be embedded to prepare the ground for an exit strategy seeking for Authorities' and other donors to take over under long term strategies.

Adequate logistic capacity must be demonstrated. Any action funded under this priority will coordinate with the FAO-led consortium implementing a regional multi-annual project funded under the DP budget.

Priority 4: Zimbabwe – Multi-purpose cash operations integrating protection dimension in urban areas

Priority will be given to ensuring continuity of ongoing WFP-led cash intervention in selected urban domains (Mzilikazi and Mutare) beyond May 2023, funded under the European Development Fund. Additional domain could be considered according to geographically identified hotspots of vulnerability and monitoring ability in the run-up to elections.

Coordination and alignment in terms of targeting, essential needs assessment, Minimum Expenditure Basket and transfer values are critical to the project design. Special attention should also be paid to the provision of technical assistance to governments for the establishment and digitalisation of Urban Social Registries, linked to their main Management Information Systems (MIS) of Social Protection building on urban population registration and targeting.

Mainstreaming of protection principles is essential in the current urban context in Zimbabwe. This implies taking into account safety and dignity, avoiding causing harm, and ensuring meaningful access, accountability and participation and empowerment of vulnerable communities as from the needs assessment to systematic and thorough monitoring during the project implementation. Comprehensive and independent complaint and feedback mechanisms are essential.

PILLAR 2: Education in Emergencies (EIE)

Actions funded under this pillar aim to ensure restoration and/or continuation of education services provision in the context of humanitarian crisis.

Especially when access is a challenge, innovative technological solutions, including those developed during COVID-19 such as offline applications, tablet or radio learning, may be an appropriate option to ensure continuous learning.

This pillar will focus on Madagascar and Mozambique.

Priority 1: Education in Emergencies (EIE) for children affected by the conflict in the Northern Provinces of Mozambique.

Actions funded under this pillar aim to ensure education restoration and continuation in the context of humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict in areas affected by violence and displacement, in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa provinces and other areas affected by violence / conflict that may emerge during the HIP period, as a consequence of the Cabo Delgado crisis spill-over.

All EiE actions should have a **minimum duration of 24 months** unless there is a needs- or context-based justification for a shorter duration and **target at least 50 % girls** unless there is a context-based justification for a different targeting.

EIE must integrate a child protection component within the intervention. Actions should primarily target out-of-school children and those at risk of education disruption, forcibly displaced children within their host communities, and **children with disabilities** in line with the Commission staff working document “Education in Emergencies in EU-funded Humanitarian Aid Operations”. Gender age marker must be included to actively promote access of girls to primary education.

Actions must take into account ongoing ECHO and other donor funded actions related to education in order to ensure nexus opportunities, complementarities and avoid duplication.

Priority will be given to activities that include, as relevant:

- The establishment of **safe, protective and quality learning environments**. Integrated EIE and Child protection programming including specific targeting of children presenting protection, gender and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) needs such as disabled children, unaccompanied and separated children, recently released from Armed groups, children exposed to GBV, neglected children, stress/trauma, **is a priority to restore a protective environment**. To ensure a response to protection cases, referral towards protection and **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (PSS)** services (health and legal, CP/PSS services – if existing) **and/or social and emotional learning (SEL)** have to be added to ensure child protection case will be adequately supported.

- **Protection and EIE** evidence-based assessments, analysing the impact of the crisis on the formal education system response capacities and the immediate education and protection, including psychosocial support needs for children. Reinforced linkages between emergency and development programmes in relation to EiE and Child protection are encouraged.

- The provision of **Conflict-Sensitive Education** in line with the INEE principles and guidelines³⁵ including understanding the context in which the education programme takes place, analysing how conflict affects education and how education might contribute to conflict or mitigate it, and acting to minimise negative impacts and maximise positive impacts of education policies and programming on conflict. In addition, monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children, as well as strengthening the prevention of and response to children in armed forces and armed groups (CAAFAG) are relevant to this intervention framework.

- **IHL**: to better **protect schools** against military use of their facilities and children/teachers, DG ECHO is looking to support advocacy work/strategies to promote IHL compliance through the promotion of the **safe school declaration**. Projects may include awareness-raising, mapping of protection issues, support for reporting and referral

³⁵ <https://inee.org/collections/inee-conflict-sensitive-education-pack>

mechanisms, and in some cases, direct engagement with groups to negotiate the protection of education in their areas of operation.

- The identification and provision of appropriate **accelerated education programmes, or catch-up and remedial classes** that should be assessed as per the definitions, tools and guidance developed by Accelerated Education Working Group, and based on context-specific children education needs analysis, especially in the (post-) COVID context and school re-opening process.³⁶

- **Child safeguarding systems** as a minimum requirement in the preparation, planning and implementation of EIE and Child Protection interventions. PSEA complaint mechanisms must be set up to ensure that children will be protected from harm (including GBV in schools) following a code of conduct and child safeguarding policies. Information and communication system for rapid feedback on PSEA and violence.

- **Emergency stock related to EiE and protection for IDPs.** (i.e. include shelters, Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS), Child friendly spaces, other shelter equipment, first aid and WASH kits, life vests, ‘School in Box’, CFS kits, hygiene kit for girls, flash light, thermal blankets, etc.). Attention should be given to adequate management of waste stemming from these activities.

- Enhanced hosting **school capacity** in case of major displacement to absorb new learners. The support may include the adaptation of infrastructures (classrooms), the purchase of learning and teaching material, and work towards an adequate teacher/pupil ratio). The provision of Temporary Learning Spaces and Child Friendly Spaces are key elements to restore a protective environment for (structured) psychosocial activities.

- Activities like small scale **rehabilitation, relocation and retrofitting** of schools to ensure protection of children and minimum disruption of education that should be part of a structured process with a strategic vision, in line with government rules and, to the extent possible replicable. The rehabilitated schools should be integrated in community contingency plans as potential shelters during evacuations when this option represent the only alternative. Priority for upgrade should be given to communities where no other existing building to be used as shelter is present. In order not to disrupt access to education, partners are rather encouraged to plan for Temporary Learning Spaces during the rehabilitation of existing structures.

DG ECHO encourages partners to refer and adopt building norms and models as developed in the region by UNHABITAT.

All proposals must demonstrate **coordination** with development, and other humanitarian actors (Protection, health...). Coordinated approached across pillars are also encouraged. The connection between humanitarian assistance and development is critical to help build the long-term resilience of the education systems and social protection services.

³⁶ “When it comes to Non formal Education programmes such as AEPs or catch-up, partners are strongly encouraged to use the definitions, tools and guidance developed by the AEWG (Accelerated Education Working Group): <https://inee.org/collections/accelerated-education>”

In the Single Form, the result addressing this priority should be clearly identified by the following sector: “Education in Emergencies” and appropriate KRIs and KOIs have to be used.

Priority 2: Madagascar Grand Sud Est – Providing educational continuity for children impacted by cyclones and other disasters

Geographical areas: Grand Sud Est with a national component

The focus will be put on the urgent education needs and ensuring continuity of learning for girls and boys, children with disabilities, and internally displaced children impacted by disasters.

Specifically, DG ECHO will consider:

- small scale rehabilitation work of schools and advocacy for the reconstruction of resilient schools and the provision of safe, child-friendly learning spaces with water and sanitation facilities compliant with SPHERE standards;
- the provision of teaching materials;
- the provision of accelerated education programmes, catch-up or remedial classes if deemed necessary on an ad hoc basis (please see footnote 26 on page 19);
- the repositioning of temporary learning structures, school in a box, teaching resources, etc.;
- the support to teacher training activities;
- the advocacy towards the Ministry of Education and supportive donors (Global Partnership for Education (GPE), World Bank, AFD, etc.) to harmonise different approaches to school safety into one coordinated approach that is embedded into the “Plan sectoriel de l'éducation” and recognises the diversity of individuals and organisations from disaster preparedness, health, water and sanitation and child protection who play a key role in keeping children and education personnel safe and protected.
- the integration of child protection programming including specific targeting of children presenting protection, gender and MHPSS needs such as disabled children, unaccompanied and separated children, children exposed to GBV, neglected children, stress/trauma, is a priority to restore a protective environment. To ensure a response to protection cases, referral towards protection and MHPSS services (health and legal, CP/PSS services – if existing) have to be added to ensure child protection case will be adequately be supported.

PILLAR 3: Disaster Preparedness (DP)

In line with DG ECHO regional Disaster Preparedness strategy described in the HIP document and considering ongoing funded actions across the region, priority has been given to the following **targeted countries: Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe**. This pillar also includes **regional and multi-country** interventions.

The IFRC pilot Programmatic Partnership action (PP) ‘Accelerating local action in humanitarian and health crises’ is implemented in Eswatini, Madagascar and Zambia. The complementarities between DP actions in those countries and the IFRC pilot Programmatic Partnership will have to be sought for.

General considerations for Pillar III for all the countries:

- Standalone prepositioning interventions will not be supported. When applicable, prepositioning should be a component of a wider DP strategy/project.
- DP budget line should not be used for humanitarian response.
- The environment and disasters are inherently linked, therefore integrating environmental considerations into the disaster risk reduction and preparedness frameworks and response tools - at local and regional level - should be considered to improve their efficacy with the aim to minimising 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.,).
- Budget travel for two or three people (including the DP Action responsible and one from the NDMA) to participate in the annual DP DG ECHO and partner workshop in South Africa (or other country in the SAIO region).
- Contribution to the Cap4Dev Platform of DG ECHO: ‘Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean funded by DG ECHO’.³⁷

Priority 1: Lesotho – Early Warning / Early Action, Logistic Preparedness and previous DP consolidation.

ECHO will prioritise actions aimed to build upon previous DP actions funded by ECHO with the objective to consolidate achievement made and promote exit strategy.

Geographic location: Entire country although priority goes for remote at-risk areas.

Priority will be given to activities that include:

- **Enhancement of appropriate multi hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) / Early Action (EA).** This will include promoting use of innovative solutions such as mobile technologies for MHEWS. MHEWS should be people centred and i) have wider coverage of population at risk as based on risk profiling/analysis ; ii) integrate in one single system or coordinate data from both the meteorological department and dams (Lesotho Highland Development Authority) including other early warning

³⁷ Available at this link: <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/disaster-risk-reduction-drr-in-the-southern-africa-and-indian-ocean-funded-by-echo>

systems such as that from the health sector; iii) Communication and dissemination of EW messages should be coordinated with key national EW authorities and with the Disaster Management Authority (DMA); iv) include alert triggers; vi) include adequate preparedness and response capacity of the DMA together with NGOs and Red Cross. Activities aimed to address EWS aspects, including working with the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to enhance timeliness and understanding of the warnings by those at risk. Promoting the establishment of Emergency Operation Centres is encouraged.

- **Logistics preparedness:** Logistic DP activities proposed are part and integrated in the overall anticipatory / EWS/ capacity building strategy. Logistic capacity and Emergency stock prepositioning close to most at risk areas is essential considering the mountainous locations that are hardly accessible during winter and have limited local market access. The strategy proposed consist in increasing DMA logistic preparedness capacity and prepositioning of lifesaving emergency kits. Activities would include i) continue logistic capacity building and digital / logistic equipment and stock management for the DMA; ii) prepositioning directly funded by ECHO (5-10% of ECHO DP funds max) and iii) advocacy and mobilisation of other donors and national resources to replenish emergency stock systematically and in a sustainable and durable way. The harmful effects on the environment resulting from the supply, production and transportation of humanitarian products and services should be addressed and minimized through coordinated efforts with suppliers and transportation partners. Preference should be given to purchases, distribution, and use of environmentally sustainable products. Optimizing transport, reducing secondary and tertiary packaging, avoiding procuring single-use disposable items, and favouring locally produced products with greater durability will in turn strengthen the resilience of the affected communities and the local supply chain.
- **Consolidation of the DP activities done in the schools.** Taking into account the significant experience in implementing EiE and DP actions in Lesotho, it is now important to consolidate the work done so far. This would include the following:
 - Disaster Preparedness for school integrated in national guidance and policies including multiple hazards and risks present in Lesotho for both natural and human-induced disasters.
 - Advocacy for additional resources from other donors and the Government of Lesotho to promote and scale up DRR activities in Schools, including equipment, training, contingency plans, mitigation measures, linkages between various services such as DMA, police, social services. Advocacy to include in future DRR and education programmes concrete activities to sensitise in view of preventing risk factors such as risk of child trafficking, for instance.

Priority 2: Madagascar East Coast - Preparing for cyclones and floods

Building on the learnings from the 2022 cyclones response and ongoing initiatives notably in the West coast of country, priority will be given to **strengthening forecast based early action for cyclones and floods.**

Attention should be notably paid to:

- Addressing the key learnings from the 2022 cyclones response in terms of coordination, information management and local response capacity with particular attention given to evacuation shelters (pre-identification of sites, conditions, usage regulation, etc.).
- Reinforcement of the flood/cyclone early warning system: improvement of trajectory prediction/ landslide (in more rugged areas (e.g., Ikongo)), strengthened impact-based forecasting system (impacts of weather hazards - on people's lives, livelihoods and property, and on the economy), development of mapping tools for decision support and improved communication during the alert phase.
- Building on the newly developed guidance for cash-based response to rapid onset emergencies in country to be finalised in 2022 and further exploring cash as an anticipatory action modality.
- Considering anticipatory shock-responsive social protection (SRSP) as an overall framework to systemise existing cash-based social assistance and make them shock-responsive, building on experiences in other countries. This will imply: (i) reaching a consensus on a set of pre-agreed anticipatory cyclones and floods-related triggers; (ii) working with key partners (UNICEF, WFP, FID, etc.) on setting up social registry of georeferenced at-risk populations; (iii) preparing financial service providers and mechanisms allowing for quick expansion of cash-based social assistance before a cyclone hits.
- Fostering interagency linkages and alignment with ongoing forecast-based initiatives for rapid onset emergencies in country and notably the one led by IFRC/ Luxembourg Red Cross Society under the newly launched Programmatic partnership, the work of the Start Net Work and other UN agencies.

Priority 3: Malawi – scaling up Anticipatory Action (AA)

Building on years of Disaster Risk Reduction investments, the recently developed OCHA framework for Anticipatory Action for dry spells and other pilot initiatives, DG ECHO aims at scaling up Anticipatory Action (AA) in Malawi as an integral component of disaster risk management and response.

This will require:

- an in-depth understanding of how AA relates to existing government structures, policies and programmes and technical capacities building of all stakeholders for Early Warning and Anticipatory Action as part of the broader national Disaster Risk Management frameworks.
- the development of a multi-agency and multi-sectoral framework for Anticipatory Action for rapid onset disasters in the country, based on sound risk analyses and multi-hazard approaches, including all relevant stakeholders at national and subnational level (Malawi government, international humanitarian organisations, national NGOs, RC movement etc) to guide a common approach to the timing of decisions and actions, the types of forecasts, risk information, financing instruments and delivery mechanisms used;
- as part of this, the development of agreed upon pre-determined (1) forecasts, triggers, and decision-making protocols, (2) timed and planned early actions, (3) financing mechanisms and (4) delivery channels.

- particular attention should be given to ensuring readiness of local, national, and international partners to deliver rapid/early/anticipatory assistance in a timely and high-quality manner including through better cash coordination, harmonized targeting practises, innovative payments methods.
- projects can explore the shock sensitiveness/responsiveness of the Social Protection system as important emergency response and AA delivery channel for sudden onset emergencies, epidemics, and others by ensuring humanitarian tools and expertise are well embedded.
- a critical analysis of the Disaster Risk Financing landscape in Malawi to fund anticipatory action including the expansion of social protection programmes pre- and post-disaster and
- systematic and coordinated generation of evidence supporting AA and SRSP and notably in terms of cost-effectiveness and impact evaluations through strategic M&E, evidence generation and sharing.

Priority 4: Northern Mozambique –DP in Conflict, Early Warning and Early Action and Logistic Preparedness.

Geographical focus: Northern provinces of Mozambique affected by the ongoing conflict and by cyclones, with priority to Cabo Delgado, but also Nampula and Niassa.

This priority aims at strengthening the preparedness capacities of key local stakeholders / early responders, including local Disaster Management Authorities, Police, local NGOs, National Red Cross Societies and other civil society members to assist populations in line with international humanitarian standards and principles facing disasters induced by both human-and natural hazards. Given that Northern Mozambique is exposed to natural hazards and hit by armed violence, populations' vulnerability is high compared to other parts of the country. Partners are requested **to integrate preparedness to natural hazards in a conflict zone in their actions**. Interventions should be articulated with the National Disaster Management Authorities.

DG ECHO will favour actions that contribute to:

- Activities aimed to support humanitarian partners to develop their preparedness capacities and mechanisms so that quality, timely, effective and principled humanitarian assistance is provided to the conflict affected populations.
- Strengthen and empower local institutional and community capacity for multi-risk preparedness to provide principled humanitarian response in conflict-affected areas. This includes:
 - Gaps identification of stakeholders on the ground including community-based organisations, to provide a rapid conflict sensitive response in line with international standards and (taking into account the existing conflict dimension and protection threats) to further define capacity strengthening strategies for key local actors / early responders.

- Preparing community to face mass population displacements and urgent needs arising from conflict situations and other natural hazards.
 - Building and reinforcing capacity of local actors/first responders to assist population in case of (armed) violence / natural hazards and improve articulation with national authorities.
 - Strengthening city's contingency plans likely to host mass displacements population.
 - Understanding of specific local dynamics and of the local perception of protection threats and risks in order to support disaster preparedness planning and processes.
 - DP activities related to IDP Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), aimed to reinforce local DP and capacity, have adequate contingency plan and empower local actors to be better prepared in case of attacks and / or natural hazard induced disasters.
 - Develop contingency plans including environment considerations in order to prevent and reduce environmental damages caused by massive influx of IDPs.
 - The development of comprehensive approaches to multi-risk analysis for early identification of specific threats and vulnerabilities and frame an action that is evidence-based.
- Logistic Preparedness and Emergency stocks pre-positioning: in this respect activities can include:
- Capacity building of Mozambique's National Disaster Risk Management Institute (INGD) for logistic preparedness and advocacy to improve, reinforce and expand emergency stock funded by the Government and other donors.
 - Reinforcement of capacity to stock and deploy emergency stock, use of innovative solution to ensure proper stock control, accountability, reporting and have in place necessary agreements among agencies, especially ECHO partners, to access emergency stock without delays in case of needs.
 - Procurement of emergency stock (not exceeding 10% of the DP budget) and taking into consideration other similar activities implemented under Pillar I by other partners.
 - Pre-arranged framework contract agreements with transport company to ensure a timely delivery and knowledge on custom clearance procedures.
 - Emergency stocks should be part of a disaster preparedness strategy.
 - Action addressing this area should include strong advocacy component vis a vis the Authorities and other Donors aiming at ensuring that stocks are systematically replenished.
- Disaster Preparedness activities related to climate change and meteorological hazards, in particular cyclones, including flood modelling using innovative technologies such as drones and satellite imagery and promotion of Data Winner and reinforcement / capacity building of the INGD in particular in Cabo Delgado (training, capacity building, equipment). Specific attention should be paid to populations affected by/vulnerable to conflict and climate shocks.

Priority 5: Environmental Health Preparedness in urban Zimbabwe

The focus will be put on Zimbabwe's capital Harare and other main cities, where recurring outbreaks of cholera and typhoid fever (and others) are a pressing health concern and notably in places, where public water supply is unreliable, and leaking sewage pipes, pit latrines, and poor waste management in informal settlement contaminate the groundwater and contribute to water borne diseases spreading.

Priority will be therefore given to major vulnerable areas of main urban centres with specific attention to:

- community-based public health surveillance;
- water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services capacity assessment (e.g., thorough assessment of WASH services vulnerability, of WASH capacity gaps and of the potential disruption to WASH services);
- capacity strengthening of the WASH sector to timely respond to new emergencies;
- enhancing early response mechanisms along contingency planning including trained staff, available stockpile, defined coordination mechanisms, etc. ;
- preparing the system to support cholera or other water borne diseases response;
- ensure the inclusion of returnee's migrants and preparedness for population influx; More influxes of returning migrants are expected from South Africa and urban areas are unprepared for this.
- humanitarian protection needs assessments to inform an in-depth understanding of the different situation occurring across the targeted urban areas;
- protection mainstreaming programming and M&E to ensure do no harm, meaningful access to services, as well as participatory approaches and accountability mechanisms;
- strengthened co-ordination across WASH, health, nutrition and protection clusters, sharing information and capacitating partners to respond; Advocacy for sustainable environmental health solutions for marginalised urban areas. The logic is also to complement DG INTPA's EUR 41 million action³⁸ to support health system in Zimbabwe and strengthen national capacity to prepare for and respond to health crisis.

Priority 6: Regional Urban Preparedness

The 2021 WFP innovative preparedness action in urban setting (focusing on Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique and Zimbabwe) is coming to an end in 2022. It has generated important learning notably in terms of specific urban shocks and vulnerability the humanitarian community needs to take better into account.

Building on those learnings, the attention will be given to:

- continue supporting improved assessment and analysis of selected urban contexts and vulnerabilities taking into account the physical and social differences between and within urban areas and the different risks and opportunities they present.

- further understanding of mobility and its operational implications: daily and seasonal patterns of mobility to, from and within the city are important to understand and carefully considered in preparedness and response planning.
- careful institutional analysis and co-ordination to strengthen engagement with the diversity of actors who forms the complex urban system.
- overcoming the tension between the political considerations that can heavily affect social protection agenda (such as providing cash handouts as a way of building political support) and the lifesaving demands of emergency interventions.
- further invest into urban emergency cash response preparedness along a SRSP approach, i.e., defining households' targeting in urban settings, data collection, access to services, cash delivery methods, use of cash and networks – informal, government, private sector, setting up accountability mechanisms, etc.

DG ECHO would like to support programmatic partnerships and would consider such an approach within the SAIO HIP if partner organisations – NGOs, UN agencies and the Red Cross/Crescent family – demonstrate the strategic and/or innovative character of the action and the gains being achieved through such a longer-term partnership. A programmatic partnership on regional urban preparedness can be implemented through multi-year funding (initial funding allocation for 24 months or more) or through a staged approach where funding is allocated annually.

Regional action will have to include a dedicated budget and activity to facilitate the organisation of 2023 regional ECHO and Partners Workshop in Johannesburg, under the supervision of the ECHO Country team and in line with previous workshop as organised in 2019 and 2022.