

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP) 2023 SOUTHERN AFRICA INDIAN OCEAN¹

AMOUNT: EUR 57 038 286

The present Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) was prepared on the basis of financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2023/01000 (Worldwide Decision) and the related General Guidelines for Operational Priorities on Humanitarian Aid (Operational Priorities). The purpose of the HIP and its annexes² is to serve as a communication tool for DG ECHO³'s partners and to assist in the preparation of their proposals. The provisions of the Worldwide Decision and the General Conditions of the Agreement with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

0 MAJOR CHANGES SINCE THE PREVIOUS VERSION OF THE HIP

Second modification as of 06/07/2023

This modification is intended to transfer EUR 7 038 286 to be allocated to the IFRC pilot Programmatic Partnership action 'Accelerating local action in humanitarian and health crises'.

First modification as of 01/02/2023

The region is experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity. The situation is exacerbated by several factors including a challenging political and socio-economic environment, internal conflict, and insecurity. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine continues to put additional pressure on an already difficult situation.

This reinforcement is targeting **Northern Mozambique**, where the humanitarian situation is alarming and further deteriorating as there are areas newly impacted by armed violence. In 2023, there is a 33% increase of people in need of live saving assistance compared to 2022 in Cabo Delgado. IPC Preliminary results state that over 3.5 million people will likely face Crisis or worse acute food insecurity (IPC3+) in the country. The draft Humanitarian Response Plan for 2023 (Northern Mozambique) estimate that 2 million people are in need of assistance. Particularly critical is the food security situation with cuts in the food ration to the 1.1 million IDPs, due to funding limitations.

In **Madagascar**, about 3.3 million people are also in need of humanitarian assistance and over 2 million people are highly food insecure including 252 000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). This is due to the persisting drought in the Grand Sud and after-effects of the cyclones in the Grand Sud-Est. A very slow recovery is expected in the cyclone-affected areas in the Grand Sud-Est due to low levels of food assistance and livelihood restoration.

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 Technical annex and thematic policies annex

³ Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)

In **Zimbabwe** over a third of the urban (1.63 million people) and rural (3.82 million people) population are currently food insecure. Zimbabwe has one of the highest inflation rates in the world and related price increases continue to erode the purchasing power of vulnerable urban households. In this increasingly challenging socio-economic context, residents of major cities are also facing a severe potable water crisis mostly triggered by neglect of water infrastructure over the last two decades that only increase vulnerability of people and the food insecurity situation.

In order to address the urgent humanitarian needs previously described the European Commission has mobilised an additional EUR 22 million for the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region from the European Union's Solidarity Emergency Aid Reserve. This amount will be distributed as follows: EUR 12 million for Mozambique, EUR 6 million for Madagascar and EUR 4 million for Zimbabwe. By allowing to scale up the response at the beginning of the lean season, this additional funding will help the most vulnerable populations to face the crises and avert to the extent possible a further deterioration. Further specifications are provided in the Humanitarian Implementation Plan Technical Annex.

1. CONTEXT

The Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (SAIO) region is prone to **disasters induced by natural hazards – exacerbated by environmental degradation and poor natural resources' management - and human-induced hazards** caused by armed conflict and violence.

The region is highly vulnerable to various natural hazards ranging from floods, cyclones, and droughts, and biological hazards including epidemics and pests. In the region, natural hazards do represent a major source of risk for the exposed populations resulting very often in the loss of lives and displacement, destruction of livelihood assets and damages on major infrastructures hampering the assistance delivery in some severely affected areas. The frequency and intensity of these extreme events are increasingly compounded by climate change as well as lack of relevant policies and mismanagement of natural resources, altering the seasonal livelihoods and agricultural patterns and ultimately undermining development gains despite significant investments in disaster preparedness.

The 2021/2022 cyclonic season that wreaked havoc in the region was very active and put more pressure on an already fragile humanitarian situation. Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and South Africa have been the countries hit hardest in the region requiring additional mobilisation of funds to support the national response. Madagascar, in particular, was hit by five tropical storms and cyclones in less than three months, with medium to strong intensity. The EU provided a comprehensive response including the deployment of civil protection and humanitarian aid experts to the country and several humanitarian air bridges for passengers and cargo.

Nearly 30 million people in fourteen countries are already experiencing or forecast to experience high levels of acute food insecurity in 2022/2023⁴, including Angola,

⁴ SADC RVVA Synthesis Report 2022, [SADC RVAA Synthesis Report 2022 - ENG | SADC](#)

Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The situation is exacerbated by a challenging political and socio-economic environment, internal conflict and insecurity. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is putting additional pressure on an already fragile situation, as nearly 80% of the countries are highly dependent on imports either from Russia or Ukraine⁵.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a severe impact in Southern Africa. By August 2022, almost 5.8 million cases have been confirmed in SAIO with a reported 130 000 deaths. Based on available data, South Africa has been the most affected country on the continent. More critically, the COVID-19 pandemic has had severe economic consequences in Southern Africa, resulting in an unprecedented decline in production and employment.

The security situation in Cabo Delgado province, Northern Mozambique, remains highly unstable. The conflict has continued to escalate and expand in 2022 to Southern parts of the province and touched directly neighbouring provinces. Over 946 000 people⁶ have been forced to flee their homes and villages, abandoning their crops and livelihoods. More than half of the people displaced are separated and unaccompanied children. Civilians continue to bear the brunt of the armed violence: many are wounded or killed, subjected to sexual violence, forcibly recruited or psychologically traumatised. Conflict-affected populations suffer from lack of food and water, inadequate sanitation and health services, insufficient shelter, and numerous protection risks. In such a complex setting, an effective civil-military coordination is necessary to ensure both the protection of civilians and humanitarian workers and to promote humanitarian principles. Mozambique is the only country in the region where an EU integrated approach is being implemented encompassing security, peacebuilding, humanitarian, and development actions. In this context, the Council adopted a decision in July 2021 setting up the EU military training mission in Mozambique (EUTM Mozambique), that reached its full operational capability in September 2022 hand-in-hand with the delivery of the first military non-lethal equipment under the European Peace Facility and the EU's support to the regional African security efforts.

DG ECHO's Funding Information Tool for 2023 and INFORM Risk and Severity indexes (table 1) have identified very high humanitarian needs in Mozambique due to the prevalence of the internal violence and insecurity in Cabo Delgado province as well as high humanitarian needs related to the food and nutrition crisis across the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (SAIO) region mainly in Madagascar and Zimbabwe.

⁵ <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000137683/download/>

⁶ IOM DTM Baseline Assessment Round 16, Northern Mozambique Crisis — DTM Baseline Assessment Abridged Report Round 16 (June 2022) | DTM (iom.int)

Table 1: INFORM Risk and Severity indexes

	Angola	Botswana	Comoros	Eswatini	Lesotho	Madagascar	Malawi	Mauritius	Mozambique	Namibia	Seychelles	South Africa	Zambia	Zimbabwe
INFORM Risk Index*	4.6	2.9	3.7	3.3	3.9	5.3	4.6	2.1	7.2	4	1.9	5.3	4.3	4.5
Vulnerability Index *	5.1	2.6	4.6	4.3	5.8	5.3	5.5	1.6	7.8	4.9	1.4	5.4	6.0	5.4
Hazard and Exposure *	2.7	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	3.9	2.7	2.1	7.8	2.7	1.6	6.8	2.2	3.0
Lack of Coping Capacity *	6.9	4.6	7.1	5.5	6.8	7.1	6.4	2.7	6.2	5.0	2.9	4.0	5.9	5.8
INFORM Severity Index **	3.3/5			2.1/5	2.0/5	2.6/5	3.0/5		3.4/5	2.5/5			2.8/5	3.8/5
Projected conflict risk*	3.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.1	10	0.1	0.0	7.9	0.5	0.8
Uprooted People Index*	4.7	1.2	0.0	2.4	1.1	1.7	5	0	8.8	4.2	0	6.2	5.5	4
Natural Disaster Index*	3.1	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.6	6.2	4.6	3.7	5.9	4.7	2.9	5.1	3.7	4.9
Humanitarian Conditions/Conditions of People Affected**	3.9		2.6	2.7	2.8	3.4	3.6		3.5	3.1			3.4	4.4
HDI Ranking⁷	148	100	156	138	165	164	174	66	181	130	67	114	146	150
Total Population (in Million) ⁷	32 866 268	2 351 625	869 595	1 160 164	2 142 252	27 691 019	19 129 955	1 271 767	31 255 435	2 540 916	98 340	59 308 690	18 383 956	14 62 927

⁷ Available on September 2021 at: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/latest-human-development-index-ranking>

2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

1) People in need of humanitarian assistance:

Table 2 – IDPs, Refugees, Returnees, Out-of-school Children and food insecure populations in SAIO (Source: 2022 HRP; UN Partners; UNOCHA; SADC RVAA, IPC)

People of Concern	Namibia	Angola	South Africa	Eswatini	Lesotho	Madagascar	Botswana	Malawi	Mozambique	Zimbabwe	Comoros	Zambia	Total - SAIO Region
People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance	N/A	3,761,462	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,300,000	N/A	N/A	2,200,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	9,261,462
IDPs	N/A	N/A	30,000	N/A	N/A	4,800	N/A	N/A	1,075,835	41,535	N/A	N/A	1,152,170
Seekers/Other People of Concern	6,982	56,648	242,988	1,895	520	308	841	55,959	28,943	22,696	28	105,679	523,487
Out-of-school Children - 2021 Data	12,563	3,951,000	1,538,800	30,243	39,183	2,503,200	81,393	1,222,100	1,907,300	906,500	64,500	1,291,600	13,548,382
Food Insecure People (IPC 3+)	750,000	1,584,000	14,400,000	258,800	521,000	2,064,000	37,000	3,822,502	1,858,000	5,400,000	N/A	1,952,123	32,647,425
Global Acute Malnutrition <5 year children prevalence (%)	7.1	4.9	3.4	2	2.1	7.7	7.3	1.9	3.9	7.2	11.2	4.2	N/A
# of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), 2022 (annual caseload/incident cases)	4,081	177,615	256,527	1,528	5,248	91,990	19,074	61,365	265,055	21,142	14,512	140,515	1,058,652
People affected by extreme weather-events	N/A	N/A	21,864	N/A	N/A	571,102	N/A	1,154,297	945,177	4,060	N/A	270,000	2,966,500

N/A : Data non available. Not all countries have response plans or appeals reporting on people in need of humanitarian assistance.

1.1. Food insecure people and children under the age of 5 affected by Acute Malnutrition

Around 30 million people across the SAIO region⁸ are food insecure both in rural and urban areas due to natural and human induced hazards affecting harvest production, including drought (Madagascar and Angola), conflict (Mozambique), macro-economic crisis (Zimbabwe) and COVID-19 impacting livelihood in the entire region. Only for a few countries IPC analyses are available and updated including Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. For those countries nearly 10 million people are experiencing severe food insecurity (IPC3+), out of which over 345 000 are facing emergency levels (IPC4).

Pre-COVID-19 there were more than 18.6 million stunted children in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States, and an estimated 6.4 million children below 5 years suffering from Acute Malnutrition⁸. The root causes of malnutrition in the SAIO region are generally associated to multiple causes, such as sub-optimal infant and young child feeding practices including very poor dietary diversity. However, the aggravation in some countries such as Angola, Madagascar and Zimbabwe seems associated to increased food insecurity, limited access to services including to health care and, in the case of Northern Mozambique, to population displacement.

⁸ SADC RVVA Synthesis Report 2022, [SADC RVAA Synthesis Report 2022 - ENG | SADC](#)

1.2. Out of school children

Over 13.5 million children are out-of-school in the SAIO region. In high-risk disaster-prone areas **children are often dropping or missing school** due to various factors including closure of schools as a COVID-19 mitigating measure, use of schools as evacuation centres, inadequate school infrastructures, which cannot withstand disasters, damage to school infrastructure and learning equipment, inaccessibility of schools due to destruction of roads and bridges, or in the most food insecure areas, due to lack of financial resources. Countries have re-opened schools, but various forms of education disruption will remain for several months. In addition, in Northern Mozambique, teachers are targets of armed groups and schools are destroyed or damaged. Nearly 50 per cent of the forcibly displaced population are children seeking protection and safety. This influx puts further strain on an already over-stretched education system. Students, especially girls, from poorer households or with disabilities, are often the first to suffer reduced access to education, and increased protection risks, especially during the period between October and April coinciding with the lean and cyclone seasons.

1.3. Vulnerable populations exposed to disasters induced by natural hazards

The region is regularly hit by major natural hazards including drought, cyclones, floods, and biological hazards including epidemics such as Covid-19, cholera, measles and crop pests such as the African migratory locust and fall armyworm (FAW) infestation⁹. More than 2 million people have been affected by the 4 successive powerful storms that hit Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa and Malawi over a 3 months period at the beginning of 2022.

These hazards, which are increasingly frequent and violent, damage critical public infrastructures and houses including roads leading to inaccessibility and delayed humanitarian assistance, temporary displacement and in some cases to long term displacement. These events considerably undermine the livelihood of the affected population. The combined effects of recent events (tropical storms, cyclones, floods, droughts and crop pests) have reduced food production for up to 70% of the region's population that depends on agriculture for food, income and employment. The magnitude and impact of these recurrent crises, exacerbated by climate change and people's vulnerability including as a result of the high prevalence rate of HIV, undermine the governments' preparedness and response effort.

1.4. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and their host communities

Across the region over 1 million¹⁰ people are currently internally displaced. The large majority of people – over 946 000 IDPs¹¹ - are displaced due to violence and insecurity in northern Mozambique, in Cabo Delgado province and neighbouring provinces of

⁹ According to the FAO, the Fall Armyworm (FAW), or *Spodoptera frugiperda*, is an insect that is native to tropical and subtropical regions. In its larva stage, it can cause significant damage to crops, if not well managed. It prefers maize but can feed on more than 80 additional species of plants, including rice, sorghum, millet, sugarcane, vegetable crops and cotton.

¹⁰ UNHCR Data

¹¹ IOM DTM Baseline Assessment Round 16, [Northern Mozambique Crisis — DTM Baseline Assessment Abridged Report Round 16 \(June 2022\) | DTM \(iom.int\)](#)

Nampula and Niassa. An estimated 72% of IDPs are living with host communities; most of them are also food insecure in a region classified in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)¹² 3+ (crisis and above). Many remain internally displaced due to hydro meteorological disasters (such as cyclones) while others still live in damaged or destroyed houses or makeshift shelters mainly in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Disasters and economic shocks expose communities to displacement and exacerbate vulnerabilities and protection needs.

1.5. Refugees, asylum-seekers and returning migrants

The region is hosting over 0.5 million refugees, asylum seekers and other people of concern¹³, mainly from Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi. The main drivers that lead people to seek refuge in neighbouring countries are recurrent conflicts in the region and beyond, economic challenges in their home countries and disasters. These populations are dependent on humanitarian assistance as they have very limited options to engage in livelihood activities. Most seek refuge in South Africa, followed by Malawi, Zambia, Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

In Zimbabwe, returning migrants, of which the majority are children and women, are in need of protection and safe environment. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, approximately 500 000 Zimbabwean migrants have already returned to the country¹⁴ and up to 250 000 more may be forced to return by mid-2023 given that South Africa extended Zimbabwean exemption permits for six months more. Zimbabweans are fearing issues related to their personal safety due to a rise in xenophobia and tough migration policies in South Africa. This is increasing the pressure on communities already significantly affected by protracted crisis in addition to unemployment, and the need to increase social services, protection and livelihood opportunities that were already under strain.

2) Description of the most acute humanitarian needs

a. Protection

Internally Displaced People, refugees and migrants are the populations most exposed to protection risks (including violence, discrimination, restriction of movement, coercion), often exacerbated by pre-existing social and gender inequalities.

In the region, vulnerable people (women, children, elderly, persons with special needs) are turning to negative coping mechanisms such as early or forced marriage, worst forms of child labour and sexual exploitation, due to armed conflict, extreme food insecurity, disasters and limited or no access to basic services.

The region is facing an increasing prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). For the period 2021-2022, humanitarian organisations have targeted a caseload

¹² The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification measures the levels of severity of acute food insecurity: (1) Minimal/None, (2) Stressed, (3) Crisis, (4) Emergency, (5) Catastrophe/Famine

¹³ UNHCR Data

¹⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/iom-zimbabwe-annual-report-2021>

of 700 000 people in Mozambique, Madagascar and Zimbabwe. This increase comes as a result of the pandemic, poverty, armed conflict and climate-induced disasters. It has expanded the risk of HIV transmission and the need for more protection and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Acute stress and traumatic events require a strong psychosocial support (PSS) and more broadly protection responses. Community mechanisms, basic services and coordination need to be maintained and strengthened to mitigate the protection needs of the population. Given that more than 50% of the population is under 18 years old, child protection is a humanitarian necessity.

In Mozambique, serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights conventions have been reported, including sexual and gender-based violence, killings, abductions and the forced recruitment of children into armed groups.

In Madagascar, the increased insecurity created by armed groups (Dahalo) and the food insecurity resulting from drought seriously undermine the protection of the civilian population. Child abuse and gender-based violence are increasing, pupils are dropping out of school and cases of child exploitation are reportedly increasing. The trends in violence are not sufficiently understood to provide an appropriate, safe and dignified response, based on the principle of doing no harm.

The establishment of a protective humanitarian response remains of paramount importance in the countries affected by a humanitarian crisis in the region.

b. Food Security & Livelihood

Nearly 30 million people in the SAIO region are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity. The countries hosting the worst affected populations, classified in emergency (IPC Phase 4) include Angola, Madagascar and Mozambique.

The food security situation is undermined by recurrent hydro meteorological hazards, high dependency on rains and poor agriculture techniques, depleted soil fertility, crop pests, land access disputes, lack of access to food and volatile food prices. The situation is further compounded by localised conflicts and social tensions as well as governance, social and economic issues. The accessibility of hard-to-reach areas due to poor transport infrastructures is a challenge. Also, the impact of COVID-19 led to a significant increase in the levels of unemployment undermining livelihood opportunities.

Moreover, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has an impact on the global, regional and local economies. Nearly 80% of the countries are 100% dependent on imports of wheat and its products. The region's top 2 imports from Russia and Ukraine were wheat and fertilizers. Although sanctions and the move to reduce reliance on Russia could potentially benefit natural resource exporters such as South Africa in the longer term, surging prices will make food, fuel and fertiliser less affordable to countries already fragile and negatively affect food security in the short term.

In Madagascar, 1.68 million people are currently food insecure at crisis or emergency level (IPC phases 3 and 4), 1.95 million people projected in Phase 3 and above from September to November 2022 in the Grand South and East Madagascar, including 185°275 people in emergency phase (IPC4). Forecasts estimate that over 2.06 million people are likely to face acute levels of food insecurity for the period December 2022 –

March 2023. The country is 100% import dependent for wheat and its products and prices have already surged.

In Mozambique, the combined effects of the conflict in Cabo Delgado Province and climatic shocks, such as droughts, cyclones, floods and erratic rains, have led to at least 1.4 million people are facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC 3 or above) between April and September 2022, including 24,000 people in emergency. Areas most affected, especially Northern Mozambique, are facing elevated food prices due to limited supply and increased demand for market purchases. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is having a direct impact on food availability in Mozambique. The country imports essential goods and commodities from both Ukraine and Russia. Mozambique depends on import for 90 % of its wheat and sunflower seed oil needs; the country imports approximately a third of its wheat from Russia or Ukraine.

In Zimbabwe, a projected decrease in crop production in 2022 due to rainfall deficits, coupled with the adverse effects of hyper-inflation is expected to stress food insecurity throughout 2022 and early 2023. The cost of the basic food basket in April had a year-on-year price increase of 131%. Prices for food and basic commodities are projected to come under further pressure considering the increase of international prices. Zimbabwe is 60% import dependent for wheat and its products. Nearly a third of the urban (1.63 million) and rural (3.52 million) population are currently food insecure. Food insecurity of rural households is expected to increase further to approx. 4.72 million (43%) by October to December 2022, and peak at 5.6 million (51%) from January to March 2023.

c. Nutrition

In 2022, the Southern African region is faced with an increased burden of malnutrition, some countries highlighting up to 30 % increase in their treatment admission numbers. According to recent SMART surveys and IPC analysis, nearly 100 000 children under the age of five and 22 000 pregnant or lactating women are likely to suffer from acute malnutrition in Cabo Delgado, Northern Mozambique¹⁵. In Madagascar, pockets of global acute malnutrition above threshold remain in Grand Sud and Sud Est¹⁶. With expected deterioration of the food situation in drought and cyclones affected areas, increased number of children under five are likely to suffer from acute malnutrition as the lean season starts in December. In Angola, the total expected caseload of malnourished children could be as high as 400 000 at national level¹⁷, and the adoption of negative coping strategies and increased protection issues are already observed and will likely increase. The nutrition situation is closely monitored in these countries as well as in Malawi and Zimbabwe, which are all considered hotspot areas.

d. Health

The burden of infectious diseases is high in many countries across the region. Epidemics, in particular measles, cholera, malaria, yellow fever and other communicable diseases,

¹⁵ UNICEF SMART Survey

¹⁶ Preliminary results of the rapid SMART Survey in Sud Est, July 2022 and preliminary results of the Nutritional Surveillance System for 3rd Quarter 2022

¹⁷ UNICEF, UN OCHA

are frequent with an extended geographical scope. In 2022, following a case of wild poliovirus in Malawi (first case in 30 years), Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique kicked off a large-scale vaccination campaign targeting 28 million children and ramped-up disease surveillance to halt the virus. Many of these outbreaks require urgent support of humanitarian and specialised actors to support national authorities for adequate containment and response (beyond the health sector).

About 16.5 million people across the region live with HIV¹⁸. While South Africa has the highest number of people living with HIV, Eswatini has the highest HIV prevalence in the world. The risk of HIV transmission has increased notably because of GBV, especially in Lesotho.

The COVID-19 pandemic has undermined the local capacities to respond to the most urgent needs and several countries have experienced acute shortage of essential medical supplies.

In 2022, measles outbreaks have been recorded in Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Namibia forcing governments to promote vaccination campaigns. Local and national responders are operating with limited resources, which calls for stronger investment in local capacities and for humanitarian funds to be used to enable fragile countries to better prepare for future crises of such magnitude.

e. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Large scale natural hazards and conflicts undermining the regular and reliable access to safe water for drinking, hygiene, agriculture and livestock are challenges across the region. For instance, the northern part of Zambia, part of Lesotho, Malawi and Eswatini experience flooding due to excessive rains, leading to waterlogging of crops and reducing food availability. WASH infrastructures are damaged or insufficient to respond to the high demand in terms of quantity and quality. Competition over scarce access to resources including to water is also fuelling conflicts between communities. Support to preparedness and emergency response are essential.

f. Shelter and Non Food Items (NFIs)

The provision of shelters and NFIs is critical for displaced populations in camps or settlements from the onset of a response and especially for people newly displaced. With violent attacks continuing in Cabo Delgado, most displaced people first seek shelter with host families, who themselves most often do not have adequate shelter conditions. Hosting displaced people may lead to overcrowding, unhealthy conditions and increased vulnerability. Most of the prepositioned stocks in the region have been used and depleted to respond to the multiple cyclones and flood events. Considering vulnerabilities across the region, there is a need to strategically preposition shelter and non-food items to ease a timely and effective response to any new and unforeseen crisis. In order to mitigate the risk posed by climate shocks, the implementation of contingency and response plans, with sustainable risk proof re-construction methods, is critical.

¹⁸ UNAIDS Data 2020

Indeed, homes and important infrastructures can be easily destroyed by disasters induced by natural hazards.

g. Education in Emergencies (EiE)

Schools are often used as emergency shelters and overpopulated after displacements or natural disasters such as cyclones or floods, causing education disruption. In other instances, schools have also been used for military purposes – in full breach of the Safe Schools Declaration¹⁹ – with direct implications on the continuity of education and in violation of IHL principles. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic affected over 54 million students in the region and has led to school closure for almost 2 years in some countries, which disrupted the learning of million children and triggered schools drop out. The longer a child stays out of school, the less likely they are to resume their education. These children have also been through traumatic events which require a strong psychosocial support (PSS) and more broadly protection responses. The needs include both hardware (Teaching Learning Succeeding, schools' rehabilitation) and soft components (such as Accelerated Education Programmes, catch-up programmes, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, but also extensive teacher training activities). In addition, food insecurity undermined the school attendance due to the adoption of negative coping strategies such as child labour or school drop outs especially in countries where the levels of food insecurity were particularly acute like Angola, Madagascar and Mozambique.

h. Disaster Preparedness (DP)

The magnitude, severity and frequency of recent cyclones and drought demonstrates the need to expand DP strategies to more geographical areas that were previously considered at lower risk but have proven to be highly exposed to those hazards. The capacities of the national disaster management authorities (NDMAs) and the local community based civil protection committees vary amongst countries in the region. Further support is needed at all administrative levels to better prepare for, anticipate, mitigate and respond to all kind of disasters including conflict situations. As an example, the intra action review (workshop) undertaken in the aftermath of the particularly severe cyclonic season 2021/2022 in Madagascar has pointed to the multiple challenges faced by the Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et des Catastrophes (BNGRC) and by local authorities when having to deploy, respond and coordinate. The leadership gap and the decision-making complexity have led to dangerous avoidable delays.

Important progress has been made in the region in terms of promoting, developing and harmonising anticipatory action approaches for natural (volcanos, earthquakes etc.) and climate-induced hazards, at the same time, these need to be strengthened to also include human-induced disasters (conflict, civil unrest, etc.). Where feasible, anticipatory action approaches should be linked to shock responsive social protection systems (SRSP) and advocacy and reinforcement of existing SRSP to expand vertically and/ or horizontally remains important. In general, more expertise is needed to ensure good disaster preparedness for and in conflict and fragile settings.

¹⁹ An inter-governmental political commitment to protect students, teachers, schools, and universities from the worst effects of armed conflict add UNDRR framework

Therefore, joint preparedness/contingency plans, with authorities and other stakeholders, informed by dynamic risk analysis of current and future climate change, environmental and conflict-related risks should be encouraged and promoted.

More DP strategies for urban areas need to be developed, promoted and advocated for due to the concentration of vulnerable population in disaster prone urban areas and of the short and medium-term risks associated with urbanisation such as environmental degradation and accruing urban waste which mostly clog the drainages and may cause floods.

A gradual shift towards more systematic forecast-based financing and early action approaches, building on multi-hazard early warning systems should be strengthened overtime. Delivery channels, including community-based emergency preparedness processes, and developing strong synergies/ complementarities with national shock responsive social protection systems should be further explored. It is necessary to build capacity of NDMAs on the use of these technologies and promote/advocate for systematised knowledge management national/regional hubs.

i. Logistic

In view of ensuring swift humanitarian response to a sudden onset disaster and/or worsening of an existing crisis, there is a need to reinforce support to logistics and consider when operational gaps are identified, options to access the European Humanitarian Response Capacities including EU Humanitarian Air Bridge operations for cargo and passengers as implemented respectively in 2021 in Mozambique and in 2022 in Madagascar. The possibility to mobilise additional air assets in-country (last mile delivery approach) are addition opportunities to fill in critical gaps by facilitating humanitarian aid delivery and reinforce emergency responses.

3. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND COORDINATION

1) National / local response and involvement

Regional level: In the SAIO region, there is a conducive environment to pilot, learn and scale up the use of innovative and green technologies as well as collaborations with institutions such as Research institutes and Regional/National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS). The Disaster Risk Reduction Unit (DRR Unit) has the mandate to develop effective frameworks and programmes to facilitate disaster risk management (DRM) coordination, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation in the region. This Unit has a double function of 1) coordinates disaster risk reduction activities and programmes within the South African Development Community (SADC) and coordinates the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR and 2) Promotes and support the mainstreaming of DRR into development policies and programmes of member states.. Its SADC Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy and Fund 2016-2030 describes the regional priorities and highlights key gaps to be addressed, e.g. a regional Disaster Risk Management (DRM) data system, a regional disaster response mechanism and a Regional Emergency Response Team. There is however a need to improve the operationalisation of the strategy and promote further coordination between disaster preparedness and response structures at regional and national level including the newly established SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC) in

Mozambique, which is expected to co-ordinate regional disaster risk response and early recovery efforts.

National level: Governments face difficulties to provide complete responses because of the following factors: uneven technical capacity of the National Disaster Management Authorities (NDMA) and of the specific line ministries/direct sectors, ineffective coordination, insufficient funding/resources, delayed acknowledgement of emergency situations undermining timely humanitarian response. However, the DMAs in Mozambique, Malawi, Eswatini and Zimbabwe have been active during the multiple cyclone response, providing personnel, equipment and some financial resources. The response demonstrated the need to strengthen rapid response capacity and coordination.

There is an openness towards the use of innovative technologies in the response such as mobile technologies and drones in Mozambique, Madagascar, Lesotho, Eswatini and in Malawi where these technologies have demonstrated their pertinence and effectiveness.

The cash transfer modality in humanitarian response is generally accepted in the region and promoted by governments with some exceptions such as Mozambique for the Cabo Delgado crisis response. Some countries deliver food assistance using their own grain reserves. However, the magnitude of food insecurity means that international support is usually necessary.

2) International Humanitarian Response

Figures are coming from the UNOCHA Financial Tracking System (FTS). The table shows the level of funding in percentage, when available and applicable. Not all countries have response plans or appeals to respond to crises.

Funding appeals 2022 *	Mozambique	Madagascar	Malawi
Mozambique Gombe Emergency Response Plan 2022	19%		
Mozambique Humanitarian Response Plan 2022	57.4%		
Madagascar's Grand Sud Flash Appeal 2022		65.56%	
Malawi Flash Appeal 2022			42.1%

* October 2022

In 2022, the most important donors for Food Assistance in the region are USA (BHA/USAID), EU/ECHO, EU MS (like Ireland, Sweden, Germany), Japan, Russia and China.

The main donors involved in disaster preparedness/mitigation in the SAIO Region are the EU and its member states (such as Ireland, Belgium, France, Italy) and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Irish Northern Aid Committee (NORAID), United States Agency for International Development/Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), the World Bank/ Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), several UN agencies, framed within long-term development strategies with some integrating wider climate change adaptation programmes.

On the Cabo Delgado crisis, the main humanitarian donors are USAID, FCDO, the EU, Germany, Canada, Norway and the Central Emergency Respond Funds (CERF). On the Grand-Sud of Madagascar crisis, the main humanitarian Donors are, USAID, the EU including its member States (France, Sweden and Germany) and CERF.

Finally, there is an increasing interest of development donors in the SAIO region, notably in Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Lesotho and South Africa.

3) Operational constraints in terms of:

i.) Logistics/access/humanitarian space:

Some countries in the region have well developed transport, logistical, communication infrastructures and hubs (e.g. South Africa), and serve the whole region. However, when events of high intensity hit the region the capacities of some countries to respond are quickly overwhelmed. Such situations in the region are frequent and support the importance of logistic preparedness and response.

In Northern Mozambique, humanitarian actors are operating in a complex humanitarian environment. Access is a huge challenge with both security and logistical constraints (infrastructure and remoteness/last mile delivery, availability, safety and costs of transport, bureaucratic and administrative challenges) to reach the most vulnerable. The security measures for humanitarian personnel need to be up-scaled. Civil-military coordination needs to be further strengthened given the presence of a large range of armed forces on the ground (including the army, special police forces and private security companies, and regional military troops deployed in support), in addition to Non-State Armed Groups.

In Madagascar, border closures imposed since the beginning of the pandemic and until the first half of 2022 have put additional constraints on the entry of people and goods (emergency importation of supplies/relief items) into the country, making the delivery and scaling up of assistance difficult. This has been particularly felt during the 2021/2022 cyclonic season where a gap in terms of logistic was identified justifying a humanitarian air bridge for passengers to facilitate the deployment of civil protection and humanitarian aid workers for the urgent response to the Batsirai cyclone.

ii) Partners (presence, capacity), including absorption capacity on the ground:

Major humanitarian partners are present in the region. However, for the Cabo Delgado crisis in Mozambique specifically, there is a need to get more humanitarian partners and expertise, which has been hampered by lengthy procedures to get visas for humanitarian workers undermining the scale-up of the humanitarian response. Conflict-sensitive approaches need to be further integrated in Northern Mozambique and Madagascar. Overall, there are no major problems in terms of absorption capacity among DG ECHO partners, which usually collaborate in a very constructive way both with local NGOs, private sector and Universities.

iii) Other:

Humanitarian organisations may operate in a context with risks related to instrumentalisation of humanitarian assistance, corruption, aid diversion, fraud and

sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, and all partners must therefore take adequate prevention and control measures. The appraisal of proposals will be complemented by past experience of implementation and monitoring mechanisms proposed to prevent these risks, as well as the context of intervention, geographical locations, and identified needs. DG ECHO partners are expected to actively cooperate in reporting immediately any such issues as well as effectively prevent, detect and correct these situations.

4. HUMANITARIAN – DEVELOPMENT – PEACE NEXUS (HDP NEXUS)

The SAIO region has extensive examples of how the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus or integrated approach has been and still is being operationalised. Furthermore, innovative approaches promoted by DG ECHO and integrated in EU development programmes such as Crisis Modifiers (CM) are concrete ways to achieve nexus and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of combined humanitarian and development programmes. Country specific examples of nexus in practice in Mozambique, and Madagascar and one regional example are hereafter presented.

i. Mozambique:

The EU is implementing an integrated approach to respond to the multi-dimensional needs of the populations affected by the armed violence in view of addressing the root causes of the Cabo Delgado crisis. The integrated approach sets out humanitarian, development, peacebuilding and security actions both on-going and to be conducted in the short, medium and longer term while complying with international humanitarian law, human rights and the rule of law. Concretely, this complementarity translates into a set of interventions.

Under the **security component**, the Council adopted a decision in July 2021 setting up the EU military training mission in Mozambique (EUTM Mozambique), the curriculum of which includes modules on the protection of civilians, and compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights law. The EU also supports the EUTM trained Quick Reaction Forces with non-lethal equipment under the European Peace Facility (EPF). The EU approved in September 2022 the delivery of military non-lethal equipment to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) mission (SAMIM), complementing the EU support for SAMIM's peacebuilding activities.

The multi-annual indicative programme (MIP) of the **EU development cooperation** in Mozambique for the period 2021-2024 aims at prioritising actions supporting the transformation of Mozambique through economic, social and political inclusion. The 2022 Annual Action Plan includes a package for the North in the order of EUR 65 million (out of a total of EUR 193 million), through a number of actions in the areas of stabilisation²⁰, sexual and reproductive health and rights, peacebuilding, education, access to water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, climate resilience, and energy in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa provinces. The programming seeks to address the root causes of the armed violence, among other challenges, complementing DG ECHO emergency response.

²⁰ Resilience for the North' (ResiNorte)

The upcoming development programme ‘Resilience for the North’ (ResiNorte) seeks to enhance immediate stabilisation and reconstruction of the districts most severely affected by armed violence including the set-up of a protective environment and resilience for girls, women, and youth and the provision of livelihood, social cohesion and conflict prevention opportunities. While humanitarian actions apply a gender-sensitive approach and seek to strengthen the protection of populations improving case management and referral services, the EU development cooperation actions will seek to build Government capacities on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and fighting Gender-Based Violence (GBV) to provide a protective environment and resilience of girls, women, and youth (internally displaced people and host communities).

EU support to education in Mozambique offers nexus opportunities between DG ECHO Education in Emergency interventions provided in Northern Mozambique (also integrating Disaster preparedness components and child protection) and the support to education as a priority sector in the MIP for 2021-2024. The upcoming ‘Supporting Education Reform in Mozambique’ (SER) will feed lessons learned from humanitarian funded programmes into specific areas of intervention including the collaboration with the Government to promote equitable access to education - especially for girls, children with disabilities, and children affected by emergencies, with a focus on provinces that are particularly vulnerable to climate risks and conflict (Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Zambezia and Sofala).

The EU development funding seeks to build local resilience to climate change by adopting a system strengthening and capacity building approach for local communities and Disaster Management Authorities, creating concrete linkages with humanitarian funding for Disaster Preparedness where EU humanitarian projects have supported Early Warning Systems while strengthening the capacity of the National Disaster Management authorities through the replenishment of stocks and improved warehouse management. Nutrition and WASH are further sectors where the nexus between EU humanitarian response and EU development actions to strengthen the resilience of the populations and institutions is being implemented.

In addition, the EU Foreign Policy Instrument (FPI) has on-going and upcoming projects amounting to approximately EUR 16 million for crisis response and conflict prevention actions in northern Mozambique. FPI is notably funding the setting up of Child Rights Monitoring Mechanisms (CRMM) and creating learning opportunities for children. This includes the provision of temporary learning spaces, non-formal education and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support targeting vulnerable and at risk children. This intervention will reinforce the work done by humanitarian stakeholders in Education in Emergencies and in scaling-up (child) protection.

ii. Madagascar:

In Madagascar, nexus opportunities lie in the joint efforts to 1/ find sustainable solutions to address the acute levels of food and nutrition insecurity in the Grand-Sud and 2/ continue providing support to people affected by the 2021/2022 cyclonic season. It has been translated in a joint work to design development programmes reinforcing EU humanitarian response.

In the Grand-Sud of Madagascar, the recurrent crisis required a more integrated way to respond. Articulation, synergies and complementarities between the emergency response to malnutrition and food insecurity in the Grand-Sud and the EU Delegation's Green Deal action, will support the resilience of the population and institutions. Both DG ECHO emergency responses and EU Delegation's Green deal actions are aligned with the new national policy on sustainable food systems which has been developed thanks to EU funding and technical support from FAO and CIRAD²¹. Complementarities and synergies are also contemplated in the reinforcement of the early warning system in the Grand-Sud, for climate change adaptation and for the protection of affected people (building a continuum of care for GBV survivors with health and social protection).

Collaboration is also developed in the strengthening of the national health system and its capacity to manage crises and adapt to emergency response (importance of free health care during a crisis). The accountability towards the final recipients of aid is of utmost importance and in this domain, UNICEF is playing a significant role in the establishment of a single accountability and complaints system, supported by the EU.

In this regard, a technical group « L'opérationnalisation du Nexus HDP in Grand Sud de Madagascar » involving a large range of stakeholders and co-chaired by EU and USAID offers a good platform for enhanced coordination and Nexus.

Following the 2021/2022 cyclonic season, DG ECHO mobilised humanitarian funds and coordinated EU Civil Protection assistance while EU development funds contributed to a series of assessments and support to recovery. This was the case for the EU response to the the Batsirai cyclone in Madagascar in 2022. The mobile clinics put in place by Médecins du Monde in the aftermath of the cyclone with ECHO funding provided assistance to basic health care, psychosocial support and gender-based violence. This intervention is continued with EU development support.

iii. Regional

The 2023 Disaster Preparedness programming for DG ECHO will help consolidate the many partnerships developed over time with National Disaster Management Agencies (alignment), regional donor initiatives related to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (e.g. Resilience building and Disaster Response Management in the Indian Ocean programme). Two notable examples of nexus and synergies are: The '*Disaster Risk Management Strengthening in the Southern Africa Development Community (DRMSS) Project*' for the SADC, coordinated by the EU Delegation in Gaborone (Botswana) as part of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) and the Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Programme (NDRRP) - "*Resilience Building and Disaster Response Management in the Indian Ocean Region*" for the Indian Ocean, coordinated by the EU Delegation Mauritius and Seychelles, equally part of the 11th EDF.

²¹ CIRAD is the French agricultural research and cooperation organization working for the sustainable development of tropical and Mediterranean regions.

Advocacy by the regional partners on the operationalisation of the SADC Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy and Fund 2016 – 2030, as a tool for coordination, integration/mainstreaming of DP into government development plans will be pursued. Synergies have been put in place between the World Bank and DG ECHO-funded actions leading to the installation of water gauges for EWS in Mozambique and Malawi. Moreover, their DRR programmes often complement DP activities at district and community level and in the promotion of innovative technologies (i.e. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle /UAV) where other DRR funds are less active.

There are also synergies with SADC and South Africa initiatives supported by EU development funds to develop further the regional climate prediction and climate services offered by regional climate centres and by national hydro-meteorological organisations including for DRR, in partnership with EUMETSAT²², ECWMF²³ and relevant MS institutions.

5. ENVISAGED DG ECHO RESPONSE AND EXPECTED RESULTS OF HUMANITARIAN AID INTERVENTIONS

5.1 Envisaged DG ECHO response

The 2023 HIP for the SAIO builds on past experiences and reinforces the 2022 HIP response. Some on-going and multi-year projects fully funded in 2022 will run into 2023 and will complement new 2023 HIP interventions. For instance, in Madagascar the 2023 HIP cyclone preparedness intervention in Eastern part of the country will reinforce the preparedness to multi-risk hazards and will complement the 2022 HIP funded Drought Disaster preparedness intervention implemented in the Grand South for two years under the 2022 HIP. The sector of Education in Emergencies in Mozambique will be reinforced by 2023 HIP intervention(s). Another example is the 2022 HIP funded project implemented in Malawi in urban preparedness, which will feed into the new 2023 HIP regional urban preparedness programme. The new regional programme on urban preparedness is building on the 2-years regional project implemented in 2021 and 2022 (refer to priority 6 under Disaster preparedness budget line).

In that respect, the focus will remain on Mozambique and Madagascar, which are among the main hotspot crises with bigger magnitude and severity requiring a dedicated emergency response. The security situation in northern Mozambique is highly volatile, and already forced nearly 1 million people to seek refuge in more secure places in Cabo Delgado and neighbouring provinces and over 1.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. In Madagascar, nearly 2 million people in the Grand-Sud and East are highly vulnerable and food insecurity requiring special attention.

Although no specific humanitarian response is considered at this stage for Zimbabwe, DG ECHO has allocated in September 2022 EUR 4 million²⁴ to respond to the high levels of food insecurity in Zimbabwe also in view of mitigating the impact of the

²² EUMETSAT is the European operational satellite agency for monitoring weather, climate and the environment from space

²³ European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts

²⁴ This funding is coming from the European Development Fund (EDF).

Russian’s war of aggression against Ukraine. The humanitarian situation will however continue to be monitored.

The strategy is composed of three mutually reinforcing pillars:

Pillar 1 (emergency response) will cover multi-sector response to climate and human-induced disasters affecting Mozambique and Madagascar and reinforce the regional response capacity. **Pillar 2 (Education in Emergency)** will target Mozambique and Madagascar to complement the actions funded under pillar 1. **Pillar 3 (Disaster Preparedness - DP)** will complement action funded under pillar 1 and 2 in Mozambique and Madagascar and enlarge the scope to cover in addition regional, multi-country and country specific interventions also in Lesotho, Malawi and Zimbabwe. To summarize, the 2023 HIP structure is as follows:

Pillars	Countries covered
Pillar 1: Emergency Response	Madagascar, Mozambique and regional
Pillar 2: Education in Emergencies (EiE)	Madagascar and Mozambique
Pillar 3: Disaster Preparedness	Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and regional

In the event of unforeseen or sudden-onset events, emergency responses to new crises in the region, in countries with limited capacity to cope, and/or where national or local capacity may be overwhelmed will be supported, should more funding become available. In addition, crisis modifiers are embedded in the action’s response for the SAIO to give a degree of flexibility to respond to a sudden-onset crisis within a crisis.

Synergies with EU Civil Protection Mechanism, nexus opportunities with other EU instruments and the Authorities will be explored where practical and feasible.

Crosscutting priorities for all Pillars - i) Adherence to humanitarian principles; ii) Protection mainstreaming²⁵ and accountability; iii) Prevent corruption, aid diversion and fraud; iv) Use of innovative and green solution as well as technologies aimed at enhancing efficiency; v) Coordination and alignment with national policies and guidelines; vi) Nexus; vii) Visibility and communication; viii) The application of the minimum environmental requirements in project proposals (cross-cutting and sector-specific) becomes mandatory and it will weigh into the appraisal of projects. The environmental impacts of a specific humanitarian response should be mitigated across sectors, projects and programmes and mainstreamed across the response activities with the goal of reducing their environmental footprint.

Despite an annual budget, DG ECHO continues to support multi-year projects (initial funding allocation for 24 months) in case the partner organisation demonstrates the efficiency gains and the operational logic of a longer-lasting project, as it is for example already the case with EiE and disaster preparedness projects that usually run for at least

²⁵ Refer to ECHO Protection guidance note and toolkit

two years. From DG ECHO's perspective, protection constitutes a relevant sector for a multi-year project in Mozambique.

In the logic of multi-annual strategic humanitarian projects, DG ECHO also supports (pilot) programmatic partnerships and would consider such an approach within the SAIO HIP if partner organisations – NGOs with a DG ECHO programmatic partnership certificate, 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 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. From DG ECHO's perspective, the urban preparedness constitutes a relevant opportunity for programmatic partnerships.

Pillar 1: Emergency response

This pillar will provide needs-based, rapid and lifesaving multi-sectoral humanitarian aid to populations affected by climate induced and/or human induced disasters with a priority given to Northern Mozambique and to Grand South and South-East of Madagascar. The 2023 HIP comes in addition to the EUR 13 million allocated in September 2022 in Mozambique and Madagascar to mitigate the impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine crisis on food security. This pillar may also reinforce the response capacities in country.

The response will be multi-sectoral and address the basic needs and gaps identified during conflicts or natural and climate induced hazards. It will address gender, age and disability vulnerabilities. Protection mainstreaming should be embedded in all humanitarian action to ensure the centrality of protection.

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

In response to the consequences of the Cabo Delgado crisis, a **coordinated multisector humanitarian assistance** will be supported with a focus on covering the basic needs of newly displaced and amongst them, the most vulnerable. **Protection** remains an overarching sector to restore a protective environment for civilians affected by conflict. Strong protection standalone or integrated projects and/or mainstreaming of protection, gender, age and disability inclusion based on a comprehensive risk analysis in all actions are strongly encouraged. All actors and their respective interventions need to ensure a protective environment to the survivors of conflict. Partners are invited to explore opportunities for a comprehensive protection multi-year project.

Humanitarian Coordination – information management and preparedness - is instrumental including civil-military coordination in view of the multiplicity of armed actors in the context. In this perspective DG ECHO will continue its support to UNOCHA in the framework of the Programmatic Partnership Agreement started in 2022.

Given the increase of security-related displacements, the response also calls for a reinforcement of the **rapid response mechanism**, a flexible framework enabling the pooling of partners' capacities to respond quickly to new emergencies targeting the most hard-to-reach affected by the Cabo Delgado crisis. Based on experience of the 2021/2022 cyclonic season, the **pre-positioning of stocks** is instrumental in reinforcing pillar 3 interventions in the country, provided such stocks are accessible to all partners.

Food assistance will ideally be provided as part of a multi-sectoral response package and address food consumption gaps (preferably whenever possible using unconditional cash-based response modalities). Life-saving nutrition interventions for treatment of acute malnutrition targeting people affected by the conflict are also considered instrumental.

The assistance will prioritise newly displaced people, notably in hard-to-reach areas, people staying behind as well as IDPs and their host communities in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa Provinces but also in other areas affected by violence / conflict that may emerge during the HIP period, as a result of the Cabo Delgado crisis spill-over in the country.

Priority 2: Madagascar (Grand-Sud and South-East) - Humanitarian Food Assistance and Nutrition with a strong integration of protection.

As for the 2022 HIP, the focus will be on **Humanitarian Food Assistance** and **Nutrition. Mainstreaming of Protection** in all actions is compulsory and is expected to target in particular children, pregnant and breast-feeding mothers. Small scale WASH interventions could be considered only when complementing humanitarian food assistance and nutrition components. The priority will be on the timely identification and referral of malnutrition cases and the support to access of treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition treatment. Food assistance will address food consumption gaps (preferably using unconditional cash-based modalities), insufficient quantity and coverage, and should - where feasible - contribute towards framing a nascent social protection system. Recent developments have shown the necessity to respond to SGBV in the region via the implementation of health, MHPSS and protection services (fix and mobile).

Priority 3: Reinforcing early action capacities.

Building on the multi-year regional project led by FAO, WFP and IFRC, this priority will help reinforcing the response capacity in the region. The 2022/2023 multi-annual regional project is currently focusing mainly on Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Additional funding would aim at strengthening the current response capacity and expand to other countries like Malawi and Madagascar, most affected by recurrent natural hazards in the region. As experience showed during 2021/2022 cyclone season, it will be particularly critical to ensure the timely prepositioning of emergency relief goods and staff in anticipation of a rapid onset disasters to support vulnerable communities. Advocacy should be embedded, to prepare the ground for other actors in particular the Authorities' and other donors to take over under long term strategies. Inclusion of human-induced hazards will be considered.

<p><i>Pillar 2: Education in emergencies (EiE)</i></p>

Both for Madagascar and Mozambique, the priorities under the EiE pillar are to ensure education continuation in the context of natural and human-induced disasters. While integrating Conflict Sensitive Education (CSE) principles in the response, it is important to provide adapted education and child protection programmes including accelerated education programmes or catch-up programmes; psychosocial services and social-emotional learning; safe and temporary learning spaces and psychosocial support to teachers and pupils, ensure teacher recruitment and retention (as teachers leave due to general insecurity) and monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children. Small scale rehabilitation/extension of existing schools can be considered. A special

attention will continue to be paid to the situation of girls in accordance with the recommendation of the European Court of Auditors.

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.

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

The provision of EiE interventions is highly relevant for displaced populations and their host communities in Cabo Delgado and neighbouring provinces, as the conflict continues to cause education disruption for thousands of pupils. The focus will be as in 2022 to ensure safe learning spaces and provision of adequate education programmes for children in areas affected by violence and forced displacement. The target locations are mainly Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Nampula provinces, however other areas affected by violence/conflict may also be considered when related to the Cabo Delgado crisis spill-over.

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

The provision of EiE/Child protection interventions is highly relevant for children affected by the 2021/2022 cyclonic season as it has caused education disruption for thousands of pupils and considerable infrastructures damages. The focus will lie on ensuring safe learning spaces and provision of adequate education programmes for severely affected children. The target location is mainly the Southeast of Madagascar.

<i>Pillar 3: Disaster Preparedness (DP)</i>
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In accordance with the global Disaster Preparedness (DP) guidance of ECHO, the four DP priorities are: (1) anticipatory action such as Early Warning Systems; (2) preparedness in conflict/fragile settings (notably in Mozambique); (3) climate and environmental resilience and (4) urban preparedness.

Support is envisaged for enhanced Disaster Preparedness for response and early/anticipatory action in contexts of recurrent and predictable crises, building upon ongoing actions and lessons learned from recent crises, and linking to national systems and longer-term strategies. This includes supporting national disaster management systems at central and community levels, reinforcing early warning systems and linking early warning to early action.

Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) preparedness will become an intrinsic part of DP activities and, whenever possible, linked to Shock Responsive Social Protection Systems (SRSPS) to ensure timely and more appropriate and efficient use of cash. Advocacy for cash preparedness and technical support to national authorities and local partner organisations is crucial.

Logistics preparedness in line with the ECHO logistic policy will be integrated during risk assessments and when promoting emergency stockpiling with an aim of improving the effectiveness of the response process. Partners are encouraged to work with local implementing partners, and to promote active involvement of targeted communities and their representatives, as well as authorities at all levels.

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.

In terms of disaster preparedness, the focus of this HIP will be on Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and regional/multi-country projects. DG ECHO has been significantly investing in disaster preparedness in the SAIO countries and this targeted approach builds on existing support in the region and focuses on identified gaps. The priorities for DG ECHO under the DP pillar are set in alphabetical order as follows:

Priority 1: Lesotho

In view of consolidating DG ECHO’s Disaster preparedness investments in Lesotho, there is need to create an optimal environment for a sustainable early warning system and to consolidate the learning gained in the education sector. The interventions will be built around two main outcomes:

- 1/ The reinforcement of the Early Warning system. This action will also be complemented by logistic preparedness and the prepositioning of emergency kits in collaboration with the Disaster Management Authority in Lesotho.
- 2/ Consolidation of learning in the sector of education and translation into national guidance and policies.

Priority 2: Madagascar

DG ECHO will reinforce the early warning systems and preparedness capacities for an early/anticipated response to cyclonic events in the Eastern coast. The action will contribute, in coordination with the IFRC pilot Programmatic Partnership, the Start Network and other UN Agencies, to build an anticipatory shock responsive social protection framework.

Priority 3: Malawi

This priority will focus on 1/ reinforcing the early warning systems for anticipatory actions; 2/ Equipping the communities with the pre-alert early warning tools damaged by Tropical storm Ana and Tropical Cyclone Gombe 3/ logistic preparedness and prepositioning emergency items/kits in collaboration with the Disaster Management Authority in Malawi and national/local organisations.

Priority 4: Mozambique

This priority aims to reinforce the disaster preparedness levels in Northern Mozambique, a region recurrently affected by human-induced disasters and those induced by natural hazards. Three main focuses:

- To strengthen the capacities of local actors, including first responders and authorities in responding to any disaster, including conflict. This priority will be linked as well to the rapid response mechanism under pillar 1.
- To improve capacities of partners in view of complementing local Authorities’ response notably in terms of logistic preparedness and stock prepositioning.
- To promote the capacity of Mozambique’s National Disaster Risk Management Institute (INGD) and other stakeholders to set up and operate a conflict sensitive multi-hazard Early Warning System (EWS) in Cabo Delgado.

Priority 5: Zimbabwe

Under this priority, the focus will be on protecting the most vulnerable populations living in urban centres in Zimbabwe and providing solutions to promote health of urban citizens. Humanitarian protection needs assessments are compulsory in all interventions to inform an in-depth understanding of the different situations faced by the populations across the targeted urban areas. The actions will look specifically at reinforcing the preparedness capacities of the authorities and organisations to respond to epidemics including surveillance, prepositioning of emergency stocks, and contingency planning. Special attention will also be paid to prepare for influx of returning migrants to ensure that relevant assistance is provided to them as well.

Priority 6: Regional urban preparedness

The 2021 innovative preparedness action in urban setting (focusing on Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique and Zimbabwe) implemented by WFP is ending in 2022. The humanitarian community needs to integrate the learnings generated regarding specific urban shocks and vulnerability. The priority now will be to translate those achievements into country and regional SADC guidance.

Cities can be better prepared to address a wide range of shocks and then play a key role in enhancing food security and nutrition systems. A programmatic partnership could be a way of supporting regional urban preparedness. Such a partnership could gather key stakeholders in managing and responding to urban shocks and build on past experience integrating notably learnings generated in terms of specific urban shocks, vulnerability and essential needs. The added value of a longer-term approach will have to be demonstrated by the partners.

5.2 Other DG ECHO interventions

The Emergency Toolbox HIP may be drawn upon to prepare and respond to fast onset crises that could not be foreseen in ECHO's humanitarian implementation plans. Under the Emergency Toolbox HIP, the Small-Scale tool (SST), the Acute Large Emergency Response Tool (ALERT), the Epidemics tool, and the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) are instruments that also provide additional funding options.

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 European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC) is a global initiative, aiming at supporting the delivery of humanitarian assistance with a gap-filling approach. Under the EHRC, the Commission has at its disposal 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.), and a stockpile of emergency WASH and shelter items to be pre-positioned in regional warehouses worldwide.