

## TECHNICAL ANNEX

### SOUTH, EAST, SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

#### 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/D4
Contact persons at HQ	Contact persons in the field
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**2. FINANCIAL INFO**

Indicative Allocation<sup>1</sup>: **EUR 78 281 019** of which an indicative amount of EUR 4 600 000 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. In 2023, an indicative amount of EUR 3 800 000 will be dedicated to Programmatic Partnerships: EUR 3 500 000 for the third and final year with the FAO and EUR 300 000 for the second year with OCHA. In addition, new Programmatic Partnerships could be signed in 2023<sup>2</sup> and 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 euro)<sup>3</sup>:

Countries	Action (a) Man-made crises and natural hazards	Action (b) Initial emergency response/small-scale/epidemics	Action (c) Disaster Preparedness	Actions (d) to (f) Transport / Complementary activities	<b>TOTAL</b>
Bangladesh	29 805 019		5 828 008		<b>35 633 027</b>
Myanmar	30 576 000				<b>30 576 000</b>
Regional Refugee Crisis	3 000 000				<b>3 000 000</b>
Philippines	1 500 000		1 700 000		<b>3 200 000</b>
Nepal			2 200 000		<b>2 200 000</b>
FAO Programmatic Partnership			3 500 000 <sup>4</sup>		<b>3 500 000</b>
Programmatic Partnership Communication & Coordination <sup>5</sup>			171 992		<b>171 992</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64 881 019</b>		<b>13 400 000</b>		<b>78 281 019</b>

<sup>1</sup> The Commission reserves the right not to award all or part of the funds made or to be made available under the HIP to which this Annex relates, or to allocate part of the funding to interventions with a regional or multi-country approach.

<sup>2</sup> 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>

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

<sup>4</sup> **EUR 2 300 000 from the Regional South-East Asia DPBL (entire envelope); EUR 700 000 from Bangladesh DPBL; EUR 500 000 from Philippines DPBL.** The remaining EUR 500 000 to complete the EUR 4 000 000 of the third and last year of the FAO PP will come from the Pakistan DPBL (HIP ECHO/-AS/BUD/2023/91000).

<sup>5</sup> In the framework of the pilot Programmatic Partnership with IFRC

### 3. PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT

#### a) Co-financing

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

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

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

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

#### c) Alternative arrangements

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

#### d) Field office costs

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

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

and

- ii. according to usual cost accounting practices which are applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding.

- e) Actions embedded in multiannual strategies

Funding under this HIP may be used to finance actions implemented in the framework of multiannual strategies, as and when provided for in the HIP.

- f) Regional and multi-country actions

Regional/multi-country actions can be supported under this HIP (and where relevant in conjunction with other HIPs<sup>6</sup>), where they are proven more suitable/effective than country-based interventions to respond to identified needs, taking into account the operating context, the strategy and the priorities set out in the HIP (or respective HIPs), the operational guidelines provided in section 4.1.2. of this Annex, as well as the applicant organisation's capacities. The proposals should specify the breakdown between the different country allocations.

#### **4. ADMINISTRATIVE INFO**

##### **Allocation round 1 - Bangladesh**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 22 500 000.
  - Up to EUR 16 500 000 for Humanitarian Operations
  - Up to EUR 2 500 000 for Education in Emergencies
  - Up to EUR 3 500 000 for Disaster Preparedness
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.

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<sup>6</sup> For multi country actions falling under more than one HIP, partners are requested to submit only one proposal in APPEL. The single form should refer to the HIP that covers the majority of targeted countries.

- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023<sup>7</sup>. Actions will start from 01/01/2023.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>8</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>9</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months. For Disaster Preparedness, justification is needed only for particularly volatile context. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under a previous Humanitarian Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests with a view to extending the ongoing action for a total of up to 48 months. Actions that are extended further to modification requests can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 above)<sup>10</sup>.
- e) Potential partners<sup>11</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions<sup>12</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information:
  - by 26/01/2023 for all Humanitarian Operations
  - by 26/01/2023 for all Education in Emergencies
  - by 16/02/2023 for all Disaster Preparedness Operations

### **Allocation round 2 - Myanmar**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 18 116 000.
  - Up to EUR 13 516 000<sup>13</sup> for Humanitarian Operations
  - Up to EUR 1 600 000 for Education in Emergencies
  - Up to EUR 3 000 000 for Disaster Preparedness
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023<sup>14</sup>. Actions will start from 01/01/2023.

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

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

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

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

13 This amount includes EUR 816 000 contributed by the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the European Commission aiming to provide an integrated response to the multifaceted crisis in Myanmar. This is reflected in the First Modification of the 2023 HIP for South, East, South-East Asia and the Pacific.

14 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.

- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>15</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>16</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months. For Disaster Preparedness, justification is needed only for particularly volatile context. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under a previous Humanitarian Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests with a view to extending the ongoing action for a total of up to 48 months. Actions that are extended further to modification requests can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 above)<sup>17</sup>.
- e) Potential partners<sup>18</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions<sup>19</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information:
- by 09/01/2023 for all Humanitarian Operations
  - by 09/01/2023 for all Education in Emergencies
  - by 09/01/2023 for all Disaster Preparedness Operations

### **Allocation round 3 - Regional Refugee Crisis**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 2 000 000
- Up to EUR 2 000 000 for Humanitarian Operations
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023<sup>20</sup>. Actions will start from 01/01/2023.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>21</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>22</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months. For Disaster Preparedness, justification is needed only for particularly volatile context. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under a previous Humanitarian Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests with a view to

15 Maximum duration of an action is 48 months.

16 See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding (November 2022) available on DGEcho WebSite (dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu)

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

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

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

20 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.

21 Maximum duration of an action is 48 months.

22 See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding (November 2022) available on DGEcho WebSite (dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu)

extending the ongoing action for a total of up to 48 months. Actions that are extended further to modification requests can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 above)<sup>23</sup>.

- e) Potential partners<sup>24</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions<sup>25</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information:
  - by 09/01/2023 for all Humanitarian Operations

#### **Allocation round 4 - Philippines**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 3 000 000.
  - Up to EUR 1 000 000 for Humanitarian Operations
  - Up to EUR 500 000 for Education in Emergencies
  - Up to EUR 1 500 000 for Disaster Preparedness
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023<sup>26</sup>. Actions will start from 01/01/2023.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>27</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>28</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months. For Disaster Preparedness, justification is needed only for particularly volatile context. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under a previous Humanitarian Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests with a view to extending the ongoing action for a total of up to 48 months. Actions that are extended further to modification requests can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 above)<sup>29</sup>.
- e) Potential partners<sup>30</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners.

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

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

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

26 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.

27 Maximum duration of an action is 48 months.

28 See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding (November 2022) available on DGEcho WebSite (dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu)

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

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

- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions<sup>31</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information:
  - by 26/01/2023 for all Humanitarian Operations
  - by 26/01/2023 for all Education in Emergencies
  - by 16/02/2023 for all Disaster Preparedness Operations

#### **Allocation round 5 - Nepal**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 2 000 000.
  - Up to EUR 2 000 000 for Disaster Preparedness
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/ 01/ 2023<sup>32</sup>. Actions will start from 01/01/2023.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>33</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>34</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months. For Disaster Preparedness, justification is needed only for particularly volatile context. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under a previous Humanitarian Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests with a view to extending the ongoing action for a total of up to 48 months. Actions that are extended further to modification requests can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 above)<sup>35</sup>.
- e) Potential partners<sup>36</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions<sup>37</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information:
  - by 09/01/2023 for all Disaster Preparedness Operations

#### **Allocation Round 6 – Myanmar (modified allocation round 2 on 24/03/2023)**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 18 116 000.

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

32 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.

33 Maximum duration of an action is 48 months.

34 See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding (November 2022) available on DGEcho WebSite (dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu)

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

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

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



- Up to EUR 16 516 000<sup>38</sup> for Humanitarian Operations
- Up to EUR 1 600 000 for Education in Emergencies

### **Allocation round 7 - Bangladesh**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 7 000 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: reinforcement of food assistance in camps in Cox's Bazar.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/06/2023<sup>39</sup>. Actions will start from 01/06/2023.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>40</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>41</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months. For Disaster Preparedness, justification is needed only for particularly volatile context. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under a previous Humanitarian Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests with a view to extending the ongoing action for a total of up to 48 months. Actions that are extended further to modification requests can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 above)<sup>42</sup>.
- e) Potential partners<sup>43</sup>: WFP
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form.<sup>44</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 17 July.

### **Allocation round 8 - Myanmar**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 4 500 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: reinforcement of ongoing actions in food assistance, health and protection.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/06/2023<sup>45</sup>. Actions will start from 01/06/2023.

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38 This amount includes **EUR 816 000** contributed by the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the European Commission aiming to provide an integrated response to the multifaceted crisis in Myanmar. This is reflected in the First Modification of the 2023 HIP for South, East, South-East Asia and the Pacific.

This amount also includes **EUR 3 000 000** transferred from the global line Programmatic Partnerships (HABL). This budget line will be used to fund the First Line Emergency Response (FLER) mechanism in Myanmar. An equal amount has been transferred from the DPBL of this HIP allocated to Myanmar to the global line PP (DPBL). More details in the attached Note to the File. This is reflected in the Second Modification of the 2023 HIP for South, East, South-East Asia and the Pacific.

39 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.

40 Maximum duration of an action is 48 months.

41 See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding (November 2022) available on DGEcho WebSite (dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu)

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

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

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

45 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.

- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>46</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>47</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months. For Disaster Preparedness, justification is needed only for particularly volatile context. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under a previous Humanitarian Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests with a view to extending the ongoing action for a total of up to 48 months. Actions that are extended further to modification requests can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 above)<sup>48</sup>.
- e) Potential partners<sup>49</sup>: WFP, IRC.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form.<sup>50</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 17 July.

### **Allocation round 9 - Regional Refugee Crisis**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 1 000 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: reinforcement of protection-centred emergency response.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/06/2023<sup>51</sup>. Actions will start from 01/06/2023.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>52</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>53</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months. For Disaster Preparedness, justification is needed only for particularly volatile context. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under a previous Humanitarian Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests with a view to extending the ongoing action for a total of up to 48 months. Actions that are extended further to modification requests can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 above)<sup>54</sup>.
- e) Potential partners<sup>55</sup>: IRC, IOM, Caritas.

46 Maximum duration of an action is 48 months.

47 See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding (November 2022) available on DG Echo WebSite (dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu)

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

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

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

51 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.

52 Maximum duration of an action is 48 months.

53 See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding (November 2022) available on DG Echo WebSite (dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu)

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

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

- f) Information to be provided: Single Form.<sup>56</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 17 July.

**Allocation round 10 – PPP IFRC**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 2 805 019.
- b) Cost will be eligible<sup>57</sup> from 01/06/2023.
- c) Potential partner: IFRC. The funding will be allocated to the pilot Programmatic Partnership action ‘Accelerating local action in humanitarian and health crises’ in Bangladesh.
- d) Information to be provided: Single form.<sup>58</sup>

**Allocation round 11 – Myanmar**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 7 000 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: reinforcement of food and nutrition assistance, health, WASH, shelter, protection and emergency response actions.
- c) Cost will be eligible<sup>59</sup> from 01/10/2023. Actions will start from 01/10/2023.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>60</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>61</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months. For Disaster Preparedness, justification is needed only for particularly volatile context. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under a previous Humanitarian Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests with a view to extending the ongoing action for a total of up to 48 months. Actions that are extended further to modification requests can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 above).<sup>62</sup>
- e) Potential partners: Norwegian Refugee Council, WFP, International Rescue Committee and Solidarité International.
- f) Information to be provided: Single form.<sup>63</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: two weeks from the publication of the present HIP modification.

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<sup>56</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>57</sup> The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest. In case of amendments to existing agreements, the eligible date will however be the eligible date set in the initial agreement.

<sup>58</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>59</sup> The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest. In case of amendments to existing agreements, the eligible date will however be the eligible date set in the initial agreement.

<sup>60</sup> Maximum duration of an action is 48 months.

<sup>61</sup> See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding (November 2022) available on DG Echo WebSite (dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu)

<sup>62</sup> Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

<sup>63</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

### **Allocation round 12 – Bangladesh**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 3 500 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: reinforcement of food assistance in camps in Cox’s Bazar, as well as actions to avoid disruption in basic services: Health, WASH and Child Protection.
- c) Cost will be eligible<sup>64</sup> from 01/10/2023. Actions will start from 01/10/2023.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>65</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>66</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months. For Disaster Preparedness, justification is needed only for particularly volatile context. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under a previous Humanitarian Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests with a view to extending the ongoing action for a total of up to 48 months. Actions that are extended further to modification requests can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 above).<sup>67</sup>
- e) Potential partners: STC-SE, WFP and IOM.
- f) Information to be provided: Single form.<sup>68</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: two weeks from the publication of the present HIP modification.

### **Allocation round 13 – Anticipatory Action Pilot Nepal**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 200 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: project “Strengthening Ownership and Governance in Disaster Risk Management together with the Government of Nepal, humanitarian stakeholders and the civil society (STRONG in DRM together)” implemented by the Red Cross-DK will receive a top up of EUR 200 000 to add a Crisis Modifier summarising the protocol for AA that has already been developed, outlining the triggers and their thresholds for action, the activities to be undertaken once they are reached, the locations, etc.
- c) Costs will be eligible as indicated in the original project pre-selected for the top up.

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64 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.

65 Maximum duration of an action is 48 months.

66 See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding (November 2022) available on DG Echo WebSite (dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu)

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

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

- d) An extension in time of the topped-up project until 31/12/2024 may be granted if deemed necessary to increase the probability of activation of the Crisis Modifier, depending on seasonality, up to the maximum duration of the overall action of 48 months.
- e) Potential partners: DG ECHO has pre-selected Red Cross-DK to test this new approach because of its demonstrated experience in Anticipatory Action and the existence of an ongoing project with an AA protocol ready to be activated.
- f) Information to be provided: Modification Request of the selected projects via the Single Form
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: two weeks from the publication of the present HIP modification<sup>69</sup>.

#### **Allocation round 14 – Anticipatory Action Pilot Philippines**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 200 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: project “ACCESS: Assisting the Most Vulnerable Communities and Schools Affected by Complex Emergencies in Accessing Quality and Timely Humanitarian and Disaster Preparedness Services” implemented by CARE-NL will receive a top up of EUR 200 000 to add a Crisis Modifier summarising the protocol for AA that has already been developed, outlining the triggers and their thresholds for action, the activities to be undertaken once they are reached, the locations, etc.
- c) Costs will be eligible as indicated in the original project pre-selected for the top up.
- d) An extension in time of the topped-up project until 31/12/2024 may be granted if deemed necessary to increase the probability of activation of the Crisis Modifier, depending on seasonality, up to the maximum duration of the overall action of 48 months.
- e) Potential partners: DG ECHO has pre-selected CARE-NL to test this new approach because of its demonstrated experience in Anticipatory Action and the existence of an ongoing project with an AA protocol ready to be activated.
- f) Information to be provided: Modification Request of the selected projects via the Single Form
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: two weeks from the publication of the present HIP modification<sup>70</sup>.

#### **Allocation round 15 – Myanmar (External Assigned Revenues from Luxembourg)**

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<sup>69</sup> The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

<sup>70</sup> The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

- h) Indicative amount: up to EUR 960 000<sup>71</sup>.
- i) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: see allocation round 11.
- j) Cost will be eligible<sup>72</sup> from 01/11/2023. Actions will start from 16/11/2023.
- k) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>73</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>74</sup>. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under a previous Humanitarian Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests with a view to extending the ongoing action for a total of up to 48 months. Actions that are extended further to modification requests can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 above)<sup>75</sup>.
- l) Potential partners: Norwegian Refugee Council, based on the modification request under allocation round 11.
- m) Information to be provided: Single form.<sup>76</sup>
- n) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: N/A.

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

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

- 1) Relevance
  - How relevant is the proposed intervention; is it compliant with the objectives of the HIP?
  - Has a joint needs assessment been used for the proposed intervention (if existing)? Have other recent and comprehensive needs assessments been used?
  - Has the proposed intervention been coordinated with other humanitarian actors?
- 2) Capacity and expertise
  - Does the partner, with its implementing partners, have sufficient expertise (country / region and / or technical)?

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<sup>71</sup> This represents the contribution by Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the European Commission aiming to co-finance the action named FLER2: Myanmar First Line Emergency Response Mechanism – 2nd Phase, ECHO/-XA/BUD/2022/91017

<sup>72</sup> The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest. In case of amendments to existing agreements, the eligible date will however be the eligible date set in the initial agreement.

<sup>73</sup> Maximum duration of an action is 48 months.

<sup>74</sup> See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding (November 2022) available on DG Echo WebSite (dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu)

<sup>75</sup> Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate

<sup>76</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

- 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?<sup>77</sup>

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

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

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

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

The HIP policy Annex should be consulted in parallel.

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

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<sup>77</sup> In accordance with the relevant section of the Single Form guidelines (section10)

- All interventions must be evidence-based and built on robust and continuous needs assessments, to enable agile response to sudden onset of needs.
- Actions must be based on a solid comprehensive all risk analysis (threats, hazards, vulnerabilities, and capacities) and adequate preparedness plan. Protection, gender, age and disability analysis should inform the response strategy.
- Interventions must respect humanitarian principles, and in particular the principle of impartiality and *avoid doing harm*.
- Mainstreaming of protection, gender, age and disability inclusion based on the comprehensive all-risks analysis, will be a pre-condition for selection. This includes considering strategies to prevent risks of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and appropriate measures ensuring inclusion of people living with disabilities in proposed actions.
- To that end, the actions must include independent complaints and follow-up mechanisms accessible to all beneficiaries, to allow for adjustments of projects so that the quality of assistance can meet the expectations of beneficiaries.
- DG ECHO partners should demonstrate synergies to identify common methodologies for data collection, analysis, and response. Effective and transparent coordination remains crucial.
- Humanitarian advocacy must be addressed through coordinated and evidence-based actions in all proposals.

### **Humanitarian Logistics**

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

### **Education in Emergencies**

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

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

### **Transfer modalities**

Modality choice should be informed by a needs-based response and risk analysis, incorporating joint and timely market analysis, operational and environmental analyses. The use of cash should systematically be considered, across the variety of response mechanisms (anticipatory action, rapid response mechanisms, emergency responses, crisis modifiers, and shock-responsive social protection) funded by DG ECHO. All cash interventions should comply with [DG ECHO's cash thematic policy](#), including the sector-



specific considerations in Annex 3 of 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.

DG ECHO promotes a harmonised approach under the coordination of the Cash Working Group (CWG) to define the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and Transfer Values (TV) for harmonised response. DG ECHO always requires justifications on how the TV is defined to adequately cover or contribute to household emergency basic needs and if it should be complemented by other relevant sectoral interventions which cannot be met through cash. Providing an additional transfer (cash or other modality) for particularly vulnerable individuals or households shall be considered.

Cash assistance should be risk informed and targeted based on socio-economic vulnerability, and the protection concerns of individuals and groups.

The sectoral and multi-sectoral outcomes of cash programmes should be monitored against defined objectives in a consistent way. The monitoring of MPC interventions should comply with the cross-cutting and sector-specific Grand Bargain MPC outcome indicators. Multi-sectoral market analysis and monitoring should be ensured, in real time, to inform and adapt assistance, irrespective of the modality. In contexts of high inflation and currency depreciation, partners should put in place sound trigger mechanisms to adapt assistance based on market monitoring data, and design programmes from the outset to anticipate potential inflationary shocks. DG ECHO maintains its commitment to providing cash, even in contexts of high inflation, provided that programming can be adequately adapted, in line with the *Good Practice Review on cash in inflation/depreciation*<sup>78</sup>. Whenever duly justified, to cope with market price volatility, partners are encouraged to include contingencies to adapt the TV, increase coverage, and/or change to an alternative modality to preserve household purchasing power capacity.

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

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

**Applying cash in healthcare and nutrition programming** will only be considered on a case-by-case basis and if justified by in-depth assessment and analysis of the availability

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<sup>78</sup> <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/good-practice-review-on-cash-assistance-in-contextsof-high-inflation-and-depreciation/>

of healthcare in the proposed area of intervention. Potential cash application in healthcare and nutrition intervention will need to have clear healthcare and nutrition outcomes, with the application of associated indicators in the proposal.

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

At Specific Objective level:

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

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

At result level, DG ECHO recommends the use of:

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

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

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

Adapting responses to climate change as well as reducing environmental degradation are highly relevant in partners’ interventions. Such actions also contribute to the European Commission’s overall implementation of the European Green Deal<sup>79</sup>.

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

The HIP Policy Annex should be consulted in parallel.

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

### **Strengthening Early Response Capacity**

<sup>79</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en)

### (1) Emergency/Rapid Response Mechanisms (ERMs/RRMs) as standalone actions

Emergency/Rapid Response Mechanisms 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. For slow-onset, objective indicators with thresholds for engagement/disengagement should be defined in coordination with other stakeholders including the State Authorities.

### (2) Flexibility embedded into the actions

Whenever relevant, partners should introduce flexibility to mobilise resources from on-going actions and swiftly respond to and/or act in advance of any new emerging shocks occurring and/or forecasted in the area of their operations (a crisis within a crisis). Flexibility measures can be triggered to provide initial lifesaving multipurpose response in the aftermath of a rapid onset crisis, as well as to act in advance of an imminent shock; the three main scenarios are: i) to fill the time gap while waiting for additional resources; ii) to respond to small scale humanitarian needs which would otherwise remain unattended; iii) to provide assistance in advance of an imminent shock to prevent or reduce its acute humanitarian impact, according to a pre-agreed plan with defined triggers and actions.

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

ERM/RRM and flexibility measures are complementary and do not exclude each-other; flexibility measures enable to act in advance and to bridge the time gap between the shock and the time needed to mobilise ad-hoc resources through the ERM/RRM or additional funding. Timeliness of response is a key element for effectiveness of both flexibility measures and ERM/RRM. Partners should adopt indicators to measure the timeframe required to deliver the first assistance (e.g. lifesaving response for xxx persons, and/or need assessment within xxx days from the displacement/disaster/alert/exceeded triggers).

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

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

DG ECHO might propose directly to one or more partners to manage some of the Common Logistics Services or be in charge of the distribution of the emergency relief items. The choice of the partner will be taken 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).

## **Humanitarian Food Assistance**

Improving availability of and accessibility to food shall be considered in the contexts of displaced populations and people affected by both human and natural hazard induced

disasters. As needs are multiple, food assistance shall be part of a basic needs approach. In the context of global food and basic commodities crisis, needs and future risks shall be identified through a combination of food security analysis and multi-disciplinary multi-level early warning systems (e.g climate outlook, price trends, population movement tracking) to prepare for and act early.

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

Labour intensive conditionality (Cash for Work/Food for Work) is never acceptable if the purpose of the assistance is to meet food and basic needs.

Despite challenges of the global inflation of food and basic commodities, DG ECHO renews its commitment to using cash for food assistance. In contexts of high inflation and currency depreciation, partners should design from the outset of the Action Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to maintain cost-efficiency to adapt TV and frequency to the price of the food basket. This includes: i) increase frequency, number of items and coverage of market monitoring and develop modalities to share analysis; ii) analysis of impact of inflation on different modalities; iii) monitoring of official and parallel exchange rates; iv) change frequency and number of distribution to preserve the purchasing power of TV; v) switch from unrestricted cash assistance to either value vouchers, commodity vouchers or in-kind assistance, or a combination thereof. None of these options are mutually exclusive and their feasibility also depends on regulatory environment.

Under the lead of the CWG and Food Security Cluster/Working Group, partners are expected to collectively agree on triggers and share approaches on the above.

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

### **Zoonotic diseases and new emerging communicable diseases with epidemic and pandemic potential.**

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

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warning systems, reinforcing rapid response instruments, and investment in the generation of effective and safe medicines and vaccines, are crucial strategic elements in the outlining of epidemic preparedness and response mechanisms that effectively address the threats associated with new emerging communicable diseases.

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

DG ECHO strives to achieve more coherent and complementary planning, programming and financing, through increased cooperation and coordination between humanitarian, development and peace actors. A shared analysis of risks, needs, vulnerabilities, dynamics and cross-shared information on field realities is the basis of DG ECHO's programming and is systematically developed and updated. In order to achieve the most effective use of resources, DG INTPA and DG ECHO multiply their efforts to promote rationalisation and operational coordination, within our own institutions and with other donors and partners. DG ECHO will ensure that Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) policies work together while protecting our mandate, principles and perception. Actions, when applicable and pertinent, should focus on operationalising the HDP nexus, in particular the nexus between operations in the realm of humanitarian and development funding. Partners should display the (potential) complementarity of the proposed action.

### **Environmental Requirements**

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

The environment and disasters are inherently linked. Hence, integrating environmental considerations in the disaster risk reduction and preparedness frameworks and response tools at local and regional levels should be considered. This aiming 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.).

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## **Allocation round 1 – BANGLADESH**

**Humanitarian Aid:** in 2022 the refugee response has continued to observe: i) humanitarian access restrictions, ii) increased and more systematic relocation of refugees to Bhasan Char, iii) limited freedom of movement for refugees and an overall deteriorating situation. The constant exposure to disasters caused by natural hazards, and the limitations in the provision of more durable and longer-term solutions are also to be underlined.

In 2023, DG ECHO will continue to assist the Rohingya population and most vulnerable host communities through interventions that address risks and mitigate vulnerabilities in areas where critical gaps are evident and target groups are particularly impacted by the situation. Though the majority of unmet needs remain in Cox’s Bazar, partners could also include activities on Bhasan Char as part of their proposal.

Protection will remain central in its mainstreamed and programmatic elements. DG ECHO will continue supporting relevant prevention and response interventions covering child protection, legal assistance, SGBV, access to justice, housing, land and property rights, detention, border monitoring, protection monitoring, family reunification, awareness raising, and advocacy, with a strong focus on community-based mechanisms and harmonised approaches among partners. Groups at risk of early marriage, trafficking, and exploitation, due to the current context, will be prioritised.

Health and Nutrition: DG ECHO will support the provision of quality primary health services, including sexual and reproductive health, medical response to SGBV and mental health. Surveillance, emergency preparedness and response, also in relation to epidemics, will be supported. Provision of essential preventive and curative nutrition services for children under five, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children will also be considered, including effective nutrition surveillance.

Education: DG ECHO will support improved access to learning opportunities in a safe and protective learning environment as well as quality inclusive education for crisis-affected girls and boys. The effective scale-up of the Myanmar Curriculum (MC) will be the main focus of DG ECHO Education strategy in 2023. DG ECHO will also support appropriate accelerated and remedial education measures to ensure effective access to learning for vulnerable out of school children and to increase retention, particularly for girls. Training of teachers to strengthen their capacity to deliver the MC will also be supported, as well as a more continuous and in-service accompaniment to teachers. Close synergies with Child Protection interventions must be sought preferably through integrated programming.

Water, sanitation and hygiene interventions will be considered if integrated into other sectors such as health and nutrition, but also to address critical and unmet needs and as punctual response to specific and/or unexpected events. The same approach will also apply to Shelter and NFI.

Site Management and Site Development (SMSD) may be considered providing that it contributes to rationalised and participatory site planning and promotes inclusive representation through harmonised feedback mechanisms. DG ECHO will also support SMSD as part of disaster preparedness mainstreaming and greening of humanitarian aid.

Cash remains the preferred assistance modality for DG ECHO whenever relevant and possible. Given the current limitations on the use of unconditional cash for refugees, DG ECHO recommends the maximisation of the use of conditional cash in all sectors (volunteers, casual labours), with the aim to improve the capacity of households to better

address their basic needs. DG ECHO also encourages the adoption of delivery platforms that permit interoperability, delivery of multiple types of assistance and exchange of information. Triggers and SOPs to swiftly adapt the food voucher value to the inflation are needed.

DG ECHO may consider supporting sector coordination if properly justified in terms of expected outcomes and added value of DG ECHO contribution and according to the agreed streamlining principles.

Proposed actions will have to adhere to the Principles of Rationalisation with the aim to ensure that refugees have equitable access to basic services in a predictable, efficient, and timely manner and that the humanitarian community is more transparent and accountable.

Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) remains relevant, with the scope of fostering meaningful access to the affected population by the humanitarian community but also to reinforce the capacity of refugees and local community to participate in the response. DG ECHO recommends partners to work towards more harmonised and simplified joint approaches to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure overall efficiency and effectiveness in terms of AAP.

Protection, gender-age and disability inclusion mainstreaming must be properly operationalised in all proposed actions.

DG ECHO encourages partners with cross-border capacity to include elements of conflict sensitivity analysis, preparedness, protection programming and advocacy.

Linkages to medium term programming and actions that include sustainable outcomes and opportunities for operational nexus are encouraged.

Partners are expected to mainstream environmental considerations by mitigating potential environmental impacts of their action and by applying cross-cutting minimum environmental requirements across interventions.

**Disaster Preparedness:** in 2023, DG ECHO will aim to strengthen disaster risk management (DRM) approach and systems at local level (in both urban and rural settings) with the aim to better align them with the national DRM architecture and policy. In this regard, the engagement of the private sector on disaster preparedness will be further explored. Strengthening multi-hazard anticipatory action in multiple geography will be pursued through enhanced coordination at displacement management cluster level and through the definition of locally tailored forecasts, triggers and alerts for multiple hazards (floods; cyclones; landslides). Finally, the promotion of a more coherent and coordinated DRM architecture in refugee areas, through the operationalisation of a “one camp” DP modality/approach in Cox’s Bazar and in coherence with national legislation, tools and models, is strongly recommended.

With the objective to progress towards the overall operationalisation of harmonised risk-informed and shock-responsive approaches in disaster prone areas at different levels (national, local and community level), DG ECHO investments in Disaster Preparedness will contribute to: (i) advance the definition of a multi-stakeholder, multi-hazard national framework “to prepare for so to act early”, through forecasting and agreeing trigger points/thresholds to minimise the impact of future disasters; (ii) identify possible synergies between anticipatory action and the Government of Bangladesh’s social protection schemes, with the aim to make the latter more shock responsive, and thus complement humanitarian efforts and meet the needs of the most vulnerable households and

individuals. These include discriminated or marginalised people, often excluded from social safety nets programs, living in hard-to-reach areas; (iii) strengthening of mass casualty management and safety protocols in urban settings to better prepare for and respond to most recurrent risks, building on private sector engagement previously financed; (iv) in the context of the Cox's Bazar protracted refugee crisis, strengthening the linkage between the Strategic Objective 5 of the Joint Response Plan, the Multi Hazard Response Plan for refugees, and the Government's SOD 2019 in order to minimise risks for fragmentation and enhance sustainability considerations.

## **Allocation round 2 – MYANMAR**

In 2022, Myanmar has faced a 17-fold increase in humanitarian needs as a direct impact of the 1 February 2021 coup d'état. 2022 has seen a sharp deterioration of the situation with fluid and intense fighting, Internally Displacement Persons (IDPs) figures are growing faster than envisaged and humanitarian access remains extremely complex, as does the overall operational context. DG ECHO will maintain a flexible approach in terms of thematic and geographic priorities to accommodate access realities and possible evolutions by the time of proposal submission, while strongly supporting operational nexus initiatives across sectors. The following thematic priorities have been identified for 2022. Protection and emergency assistance remain essential entry points, due to the very nature of the crisis and should be factored in all proposals and sectors. Geographical targeting remains open but strongly encourage targeting new areas of conflict and will be assessed based on partners needs analysis, yet DG ECHO will give particular attention to actions covering urgent needs in underserved and/or remote areas. Nexus remains a crosscutting priority in Myanmar despite the drastic contextual evolution since the coup d'état in February 2021. Partners are strongly encouraged to identify opportunities to operationalise nexus across eligible sectors and to elaborate on synergies with other relevant programs. Investing in local actors toward strengthened capacities to deliver effective, principled and accountable assistance is considered key in the operationalisation of HDP Nexus strategies. As DG ECHO is a donor to the NRM (Nexus Response Mechanism), all applying partners are requested to reflect envisaged synergies with NRM programmes in their respective targeted areas (in all relevant sections of the Single Form / annex). Partners are expected to mainstream environmental considerations by mitigating potential environmental impacts of their action and by applying cross-cutting minimum environmental requirements across interventions. The sector priorities will be:

**Protection:** Priority interventions include monitoring and analysis; specialised response services for communities or persons at heightened risk of all kinds of violence and violations, irrespective of age, gender, and diversity; systematic application of the DG ECHO basic protection package in emergency response; and referral pathways to specialised services (with clear demonstration of such pathways). This includes case management, legal aid, psychosocial support, and humanitarian mine action including victims' assistance. Effective strategies for dissemination and/or promotion of respect of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) through private and public advocacy at local and regional/global levels, as well as community-centred advocacy efforts on humanitarian priorities, will be supported. The very nature of the crisis in Myanmar makes protection an entry point for most DG ECHO supported actions. In this regard, DG ECHO partners are requested to provide: i) a protection risk analysis; and ii) an articulated "avoid doing harm" strategy, to ensure that activities are properly contextualised and protection sensitive as per DG ECHO Guidelines.



Health: The major focus will be on the provision of emergency, along with access to primary and secondary health care (fixed or mobile services), including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) (without direct support to state run health services), primarily focusing on IDPs, conflict-affected and hard to reach populations. Partners' approaches should however be based on an up-to-date situation and needs analysis. Support to COVID-19 prevention should remain mainstreamed across actions.

Disaster Preparedness: the First Line Emergency Response (FLER) consortium will remain the primary entry point for targeted preparedness investments for, and provision of, emergency multi-sector assistance. The focus is on capacity building and strengthening of local civil society organisation networks to cover most urgent basic needs in situations of displacements or hydro-meteorological and geo-physical hazards, along with timely, coordinated, and harmonised assistance with a strong localisation focus (as per standard FLER assistance package and modalities). Sectors covered beyond DP include Food/Non-Food Items/Shelter/WASH needs, the basic protection package, and linkages with other services to the extent possible. This may include Education in Emergencies (EiE) or specialised Protection. Geographic expansion to new conflict-affected areas will be supported based on partners' access capabilities. Preparedness for response and response are eligible in both urban and rural settings and may involve local volunteers' networks.

Emergency Response: Specialised sector-based interventions should consider including an emergency response capacity that could complement other multi-sector emergency response actions targeting IDPs in particular. This should be adequately reflected in the needs and response analyses.

The FLER is a Myanmar specific and localised ERM/RRM response modality targeting up to one-month initial multisector assistance. It is currently a large consortium of International and Local NGOs, led by Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and covering many Townships across Rakhine, Sagaing, Kachin, North and South Shan, Kayin, and Bago East. DG ECHO is not expecting to fund similar stand alone and complementary actions, unless specific needs that cannot be addressed by FLER are demonstrated and active coordination with FLER is documented in the Single Form.

Education in Emergency should primarily focus on retention in/return to learning. This can be achieved through temporary learning opportunities, while ensuring strong linkages with child protection – preferably through integrated programming – including psychosocial support (PSS), in conflict-affected areas and displacement settings. Appropriate accelerated education measures must be part of the strategy, as should protection of education against attacks. Emergency assistance to newly displaced school-aged children is promoted. When relevant and feasible, EiE policy is strongly encouraged to have an integrated nexus dimension.

WASH assistance should focus on acute needs of both protracted and more recent IDPs, with a nexus lens and a strong focus on developing local capacities and resilience, in view of reducing the need for humanitarian assistance to the extent possible. Whenever relevant to the proposed activities, a gender and SGBV lens should be applied from the start to reduce risks. In protracted camp settings, the choice to semi-permanent or permanent structures should be duly justified based on context, needs and principles. Emergency WASH assistance to recent IDPs will be given particular attention but should be integrated into a broader basic needs' assistance.

Food assistance and Nutrition: The scope of intervention and geographic targeting should be based on up-to-date needs assessments, with a focus on conflict-affected populations and IDPs. Support to both protracted and more recent IDPs is eligible and recommended to be integrated into a broader basic needs approach. Food assistance targeting should be based on vulnerability rather than status, particularly for protracted IDPs. For recent IDPs in hard-to-reach areas, where: i) vulnerability-based targeting is not possible due to limited access and the acuteness and severity of the crisis; ii) where it is impossible to differentiate people's level of need; and iii) where it is needed to balance between the level of data collection and the timeliness of assistance, from an overall cost-efficiency perspective, blanket targeting for food assistance/basic needs may be appropriate

In consideration of DG ECHO sustained commitment to expand cash transfer while adapting to challenges (e.g., inflation, cash liquidity, disrupted financial services), the operational feasibility of cash modality for food assistance and other basic needs should systematically be analysed to ensure flexibility and adaptive approaches. **The use of the services by cash transfer agents in Myanmar** can be approved as eligible expenditure in the framework of DG ECHO grant or contribution agreements (including costs extension) with the application of a maximum of 5% of each amount transferred through the concerned cash transfer agent, in line with the principles of reasonable and justified costs and of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency<sup>80</sup>. At the latest in the final report, the Partner must provide a justification for the use of such cash transfer agents as a temporary and last resort option as well as information as to internal control measures in place to mitigate the risks associated with the use of such agents, such as risk of diversion of funds to persons or entities designated under the EU sanctions<sup>81</sup> or to entities engaged in illicit activities. Beyond cash programmes, such agents can also be used under the same conditions as above where cash transfers are necessary on a last resort basis to meet Partners' organisational and operational needs (such as paying staff or suppliers).

Localisation and Fair partnerships: DG ECHO is promoting the development of a comprehensive fair partnership approach, which should encompass technical and organisational capacity development, but also well-defined standards of "good partnership" (mutual benefit, transparency, equity, risk sharing, duty of care). DG ECHO partners should detail their approach through a dedicated annex. Furthermore, proposals should explore options for synergies through their local partners and networks, including in terms of capacity strengthening, to be mentioned in respective proposals. While local partners are often lacking capacities to involve into local coordination, they should be supported in doing so up to the level of their role in aid delivery.

Access: Humanitarian actors' access and people's access to essential services are increasingly complex. DG ECHO recommends outlining in a specific annex a detailed access strategy that will support the assessment of proposals. This shall include: 1) Review/analysis of access constraints and patterns 2) Mitigation measures proposed and 3) Alternative modalities of operations.

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<sup>80</sup> DG ECHO will apply this interpretation regarding reasonable and justified costs with respect to fees paid to cash transfer agents in connection with cash transfers taking place after 15 August 2022.

<sup>81</sup> EU restrictive measures are available at: [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). The EU Official Journal is the official source of EU law and, in case of conflict, its content prevails.

Remote management: In coherence with the access annex, partners' proposals should clearly define the level of direct management expected in their interventions. Partial or full remote management should be acknowledged through the submission of the DG ECHO remote management questionnaire as an annex to the proposal. Modalities of direct/remote/mixed monitoring should be detailed. Particular attention should be given to modalities for capacity building of local partners, supervision and monitoring, along with risk management.

Advocacy: Despite its sensitive matter in the current context, DG ECHO is supporting the development of sophisticated advocacy strategies at local, national, regional and international levels, as well as community-centred advocacy efforts on humanitarian priorities, in line with partners' respective experience and expertise, and own channels. Partners should outline their approach in a separate annex in the form of a structured plan. The capacity to collect and provide evidence-based data to feed advocacy dialogues on protection concerns and IHL violations will be particularly considered.

### **Allocation round 3 – REGIONAL REFUGEE CRISIS**

*Scope of response:* In 2023, DG ECHO will continue to build and respond to the forced displacements stemming from crises in the region. The scope of this component is two-fold. The first aims to address regional implications of the Rohingya crisis in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and India, and the second to address regional refugee implications following the coup in Myanmar in February 2021. Considered 'safe havens' for many, South and Southeast Asian countries, in particular Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and India have long hosted considerable numbers of refugees and asylum seekers from various nationalities (Myanmar including Rohingya, Afghan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Somalia). However, none of these countries are signatories to the international conventions on refugees and statelessness and correspondingly they also lack national frameworks to protect refugees and asylum seekers. This places refugees and asylum seekers in a highly precarious legal void, where recipient countries consider them as 'illegal' and hence often deny their fundamental right to protection. Thus, whilst focus is on displacement originating in the situation in Myanmar, the envisaged response encompasses, a non-discriminatory "one-refugee" approach aiming to support humanitarian interventions targeting the most severely affected populations in need of protection and assistance, irrespective of their country of origin. This legal void calls for a protection-centred response. As such a solid protection risk analysis and clear articulation in the response strategies, combined with a quality monitoring framework and AAP need to be ensured.

*Response strategy:* With protection as the core response, programming priorities need to take into consideration country specific contexts as well as common grounds of action. The regional envelope for Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and India will, therefore, work along four main axes:

1. Analysis and research. Support to regional protection monitoring for existing caseloads (ideally applying the same methodology for consistency), monitoring triggers that lead to new refugee flows, undertaking rapid protection assessments, strengthened analysis on coping mechanisms, regular intention surveys, research on access barriers, etc. These will form the basis for evidence-based advocacy on conditions in displacement as well as conditions for returns to ensure effective consultation to support decision-making and AAP.

2. Preparedness for and first response. Support scenario planning for minimum response across the region on natural-hazard and human-induced disasters, boat movements, relocations/repatriations, etc. This will be done to a) harmonise targeting and response strategies for different scenarios taking cognisance of country specific socio-political-cultural contexts b) ensuring minimum response capacity across the region for provision of immediate basic needs around protection, healthcare, food, nutrition, EiE, shelter (NFIs) and WASH activities in case of large-scale movements. Partners are expected to mainstream environmental considerations by mitigating potential environmental impacts of their action and by applying cross-cutting minimum environmental requirements across interventions. Demonstrated flexibility in assistance approaches, delivery modalities, and geographical areas of intervention – assist people where they are – will be a core component of evaluating proposals.
3. Protection programming. Strengthen protection services focused on legal aid, documentation, refugee status determination (RSD) including expedited renewals of RSD, restoring family links, child protection (alternative care and tracing for unaccompanied minors) and follow-up of those detained for illegal migration in the region (Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, and India). Simultaneously also provide protection response to victims of all kinds of violence. Attention to be paid to alternative strategies where appropriate such as work rights and livelihood opportunities.
4. Coordination and advocacy. Support mechanisms and platforms that promote effective regional and cross-border coordination to ensure effective protection monitoring, preparedness and response plans, and joint evidence-based advocacy, for example, through joint advocacy statements by the International NGO Forums in ASEAN countries and India while also reviving the Bali Process.

Actions demonstrating a regional perspective will be prioritised over multi-country perspectives. Partners are strongly encouraged to ensure partnership(s) at local level with national organisations.

All actions should include a “Crisis Modifier” to be proposed according to the requirements detailed by DG ECHO on its DP Guidance, Annex II “The Use of Crisis Modifiers.”

*For all refugee interventions, focus remains on protection and immediate life-saving needs, while nexus opportunities should be analysed and promoted to establish a link with longer-term engagement of development support, particularly to address increasing needs for livelihood support due to the socio-economic consequences of COVID-19, as well as issues such as trafficking, smuggling and exploitation. Sustainability and cost effectiveness of basic services should be considered when designing the intervention, including fair community participation.*

#### **Allocation round 4 – PHILIPPINES**

**Humanitarian Aid:** The Country HA prioritises the most vulnerable families in Mindanao affected by both armed conflict and natural hazard-induced disasters and wherein situations are worsened by International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) violations. A basic needs approach will be used to ensure that assistance is in accordance with the situation and multi-sectoral needs, especially of Internally Displaced People (IDP). Regardless of the modality, assistance provided to meet

emergency food and basic needs must be unconditional. Protection assistance will address recurring threats such as absence of relief assistance in conflict-related crisis and restrictive movement of people within and around conflict zones. Actions targeted to armed groups such as IHL training and advocacy and civil military coordination may be considered. Humanitarian aid projects will continue to address people's vulnerability such as lack of identification documents that allow movement through checkpoints and access to government services and lack of functional protection system at the local government level. Health assistance will focus on ensuring immediate resumption of the health care system disrupted by armed conflict and natural hazard-induced crises. Such may include facility repairs to bring back functionality of Barangay Health Centres, disease surveillance and mobile clinic during displacement, and medical and technical surge support to local health offices. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) will be strengthened to immediately address the psychosocial trauma at the onset of emergency. Humanitarian Food Assistance will sufficiently address disruption of food consumption and further degradation of sources of food and livelihood due to displacement and restriction of movement, with attention given also to cooking energy needs. Cash and in-kind modalities should adapt to the situation and MEB-informed needs of beneficiaries. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Promotion strategies will be differentiated between emergency and post-emergency periods ensuring efficiency of solutions to the needs and sustainability of assistance (e.g., water trucking vs rehabilitation of water source). Shelter and Settlements assistance will provide temporary shelter and essential household items in displacement, in camp or host community. All actions should mainstream protection, disaster preparedness, gender and disability and diversity inclusion, humanitarian-development nexus, and environment sensitivity. Response to unmet needs in new displacement should be part of the operational plan or can be covered by conflict modifier to ensure rapid response.

*Education in Emergencies:* The 2023 EiE actions will provide safe, quality, inclusive, conflict-sensitive access to education to school-age children affected by the complex situation of continuing armed conflict, impact of 2 consecutive years of suspended school operations due to COVID-19, and severe damage to school facilities due to natural hazard-induced disasters. Priority are the most vulnerable children especially Lumad and Moro populations. Specific vulnerability issues of children, such as out of school children, and unaccompanied minors, should be addressed. EiE actions should ensure emergency solutions (back-to-school campaigns, temporary learning spaces, PSS) in coordination with Education authorities and Local Government Units (LGUs) toward resumption of and integration to formal education system. EiE actions must consider and address worsening threats especially discrimination of and attacks to non-formal schools and lack of mitigating and responsive solutions on grave violations of children's rights.

**Disaster Preparedness:** The 2023 DG ECHO DP BL in the Philippines will focus on reducing the risks and impact of humanitarian crisis on the most vulnerable families through improved local Disaster Preparedness. Local government units will be further supported to adopt enhanced, fiscally sustainable, inclusive, responsive, multi-risk Disaster Preparedness (DP) systems that are cognisant of climate- and environment-resilient disaster preparedness considerations. Improved anticipatory action and rapid response mechanism at the local response level must be proposed jointly with policy advocacy support for sustainability at the provincial, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), and national levels, and be environmentally and climate change sensitive. Target beneficiaries will be best defined as people in LGUs and

communities at risk of multiple, compounding risks and shocks, such as armed conflict and violence, natural hazard-induced disasters, and absence or lack of access to social services. Proposals must demonstrate how they take stock of previous DP investments particularly with regards to the localisation of shock-responsive social protection. Collaborative partnerships with concerned government agencies should be proposed, such as with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Interior and Local Government, and the Office of Civil Defense. All proposals must demonstrate how they mainstream and complement the concurrent DP approaches in HA and EiE activities. Any proposal should be synchronised with the Programmatic Partnership-FAO in Mindanao. All proposals should mainstream protection, gender and inclusion, environment sensitivity, and define which no-regrets approach they pursue, should this be stated.

*Cash Modalities:* Opportunities are available in the Philippines for a more systematic and harmonised use of cash in a multitude of response settings (e.g., humanitarian response to rapid-on-set disasters, anticipatory action, crisis modifier, ERM/RRM). Key for a more harmonized approach is the rationalisation of Transfer Value and MEB used in different situations and partners. DG ECHO expects partners to contribute and align their SOPs for cash operation to the recommendations of the Cash Working Group (CWG) and of the Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group including SOPs and triggers to periodically adapt the Transfer Value number of rounds of distribution to market fluctuations.

Given the disaster preparedness priority of DG ECHO in the Philippines, partners shall play a leading role in developing the use of cash in anticipatory actions; specific workstreams might include: i) defining Transfer Value and SOPs specific to anticipatory cash assistance; ii) documenting and measuring evidence demonstrating relevance of cash modality (eventually associated to other modalities/services) in anticipatory assistance; iii) developing and testing digital registration and interoperable payment mechanisms; iv) coordination/complementarity with government-led assistance.

### **Allocation round 5 – NEPAL**

DG ECHO will foster the uptake of harmonised, as much as possible common, multi-hazard approaches through strengthening local disaster risk management (DRM) governance ownership for risk-based preparedness in earthquake risk regions of Nepal, including urban disaster preparedness and health emergency preparedness. This should build on available learning and legacy of the previous targeted DG ECHO Disaster Preparedness investments, the 2015 earthquake response operation as well as the COVID-19 response.

More specifically but not limited to the below, proposals should aim at strengthening leadership and risk ownership of relevant local government levels according to contextualised geography by:

- Identifying and analysing risks together with communities including a continuous review of their current capacities and capabilities;
- Establishing risk informed approaches that incorporate standard operating protocols for anticipatory action (e.g. linking forecast, early warning, parameters, triggers, response etc.);
- Stimulating a demand driven resourcing from provincial and federal government thus enabling local governments to manage and consolidate preparedness and response plans for their own constituencies through dedicated fiscal allocations;

- Enhancing coordination frameworks between the three governmental levels, to strengthen the response mechanism for future risks.

DG ECHO in Nepal actions will support local governments in a *whole- of society* risk informed approach. This should be progressed by working alongside and in complementarity with development actors to ensure inclusion of marginalised groups into risk-informed DRM plans. Exclusion and marginalisation should be addressed through an intersectional approach. Whilst the objectives of social protection (poverty reduction) and humanitarian response (saving lives, alleviating suffering, and protecting dignity) differ, social protection models can play a key role in contributing to building households' resilience to shocks, preparing systems and programmes, recognising that shocks may happen and supporting people after the shock. In Nepal, DG ECHO will work with development actors to promote shock responsive social protection (SRSP) schemes to be made shock responsive, scalable, or adaptive. Similarly, risk financing measures will be encouraged to support marginal and vulnerable communities to build their resilience.