

## TECHNICAL ANNEX

### PALESTINE

#### 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

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#### 2. FINANCIAL INFO

Indicative Allocation<sup>2</sup>: EUR 92 972 388 million of which an indicative amount of EUR 3.5 million for Education in Emergencies and EUR 1.2 million for Disaster Preparedness.

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

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

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

number of partners. An indicative total amount of EUR 700 000<sup>3</sup> will be dedicated to these Programmatic Partnerships in 2023. In addition, new Programmatic Partnerships could be signed in 2023<sup>4</sup>. Part of the allocation of this HIP could therefore also be attributed to these new Programmatic Partnerships.

Breakdown per Actions as per Worldwide Decision (in euros):

Country(ies)	Action (a) Man-made crises and natural disasters	Action (b) Initial emergency response/sm all- scale/epidem ics	Action (c) Disaster Preparedness	Actions (d) to (f) Transport / Complementary activities	TOTAL
Palestine	91 629 376		1 200 000		92 829 376
Programmatic Partnership Communication & Coordination	143 012				143 012
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>92 972 388</b>

### 3. PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT

*Proposals (single forms) can be submitted at any moment during the year. However, no formal request for proposals can be made before the publication of the HIP. Agreements can only be signed after adoption of the Worldwide Decision and release of the HIP to partners (both conditions need to be satisfied cumulatively).*

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)

<sup>3</sup> Indicative amount earmarked for the second year of the UN-OCHA Programmatic Partnership launched in 2022.

<sup>4</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>

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 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>5</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 3.2.2. 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 5**

- a) Indicative amount: up to 25 000 000
- b) Provision of emergency assistance to Palestinians affected by the escalation of violence started on 7 October 2023 in and around Gaza, and in the West Bank, including replenishment of emergency stocks, recovery of local emergency capacity and humanitarian pipelines and urgent repairs to support the resumption of life-saving and basic services.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023<sup>6</sup>.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months. Proposals will need to be submitted as modification requests of ongoing actions or as new proposals on the basis of the new Single Form, unless otherwise agreed.
- e) Pre-selected partners: Based on their comparative advantage, expertise and presence, the following partners have been pre-identified: UNRWA, WFP, NRC-NO.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form/Modification request of ongoing action<sup>7</sup>.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: as of immediate.

##### **Allocation round 4**

- a) Indicative amount: up to 40 000 000
- b) Provision of emergency assistance to Palestinians affected by the escalation of violence started on 7 October 2023 in and around Gaza, and in the West Bank, including replenishment of emergency stocks, recovery of local emergency capacity and humanitarian pipelines and urgent repairs to support the resumption of life-saving and basic services.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> For multi country actions falling under more than one HIP, partners are requested to submit only one proposal in APPEL. The single form should refer to the HIP that covers the majority of targeted countries.

<sup>6</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.

<sup>7</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>8</sup> The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest.

- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months. Proposals will need to be submitted as modification requests of ongoing actions or as new proposals on the basis of the new Single Form, unless otherwise agreed.
- e) Pre-selected partners: Based on their comparative advantage, expertise and presence, the following partners have been pre-identified: UNRWA, UNICEF, WFP, ICRC, WHO, NRC-NO.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form/Modification request of ongoing action<sup>9</sup>.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: as of immediate.

### **Allocation round 3**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 2 332 388
- b) Costs will be eligible from 01/06/2023
- c) Pre-selected partner: IFRC. The funding will be allocated to the pilot Programmatic Partnership action ‘Accelerating local action in humanitarian and health crises’ – Year two, in the following country: Palestine
- d) Information to be provided: Single form<sup>7</sup>

### **Allocation round 2**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 1 440 000<sup>10</sup>
- b) Provision of protection and assistance to Palestinians at risk of forcible transfer in the West Bank due to recurrent violations of international law through a multi-sectoral approach to reduce vulnerabilities, build capacity, and respond to threats.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 1/01/2023<sup>11</sup>
- d) Pre-selected partner: NRC-NO, in its capacity as the holder of the DG ECHO grant for the West Bank Protection Consortium to which the allocation is to contribute through submission of a modification request in the Single Form<sup>12</sup>
- e) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 08/08/2023.

### **Allocation round 1**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 24.2 million

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<sup>9</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>10</sup> This allocation is conditional upon the payment of a contribution by Finland of EUR 500 000 and Spain of EUR 1 000 000 to the EU budget as externally assigned revenue, minus a 4% management fee.

<sup>11</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>12</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round *if it does not cover all the funding*.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023<sup>13</sup>
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, can be submitted as modification requests for the ongoing action with a time extension of up to 24 months and a total duration of the modified action of up to 48 months. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point 3e)<sup>14</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions should have an initial duration of at least 24 months, unless there is a needs- or context-based justification for a shorter duration.
- e) Potential partners<sup>15</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners; Preselected partner: OCHA (ongoing Programmatic Partnership).
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions <sup>16</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 17/01/2023<sup>17</sup>

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

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

- 1) Relevance
  - How relevant is the proposed intervention and its compliance 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 relevant humanitarian actors?
- 2) Capacity and expertise

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<sup>13</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>14</sup> Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

<sup>15</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>16</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>17</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.

- Does the partner, with its implementing partners, have sufficient expertise (country/region and/or technical)?
- How good is the partner’s local capacity/ability to develop 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, demonstrating efficiency gains and harmonised approaches (including, where relevant, the use of single interoperable registries of beneficiaries).
  - Extent to which the proposed intervention/s 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>18</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.

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<sup>18</sup> In accordance with the relevant section of the Single Form guidelines (section10)

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

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

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

Where assistance is to be delivered in the form of **cash transfers**, particular attention will be paid to the principles laid down in DG ECHO's cash thematic policy<sup>19</sup>, which will form the basis for the assessment and selection of partners. To the extent possible and taking into account the operational context, partners will be assessed on their ability to work based on common criteria, single or interoperable beneficiary registries, a single payment mechanism, a common feedback mechanism and a common result framework. The large-scale cash guidance note (Annex 1 of the cash thematic policy) includes specific considerations for large-scale cash transfers: segregation of functions, cost-efficiency (including indirect costs), and full transparency on the costs to calculate the efficiency ratio.

### **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>20</sup>.

All partners are expected to include context-specific measures to reduce the environmental footprint of the proposed actions, while preserving their effectiveness, in compliance with the minimum environmental requirements set out in the DG ECHO Environmental Guidance for humanitarian projects<sup>21</sup>.

The HIP Policy Annex should be consulted in parallel.

## **Sector-Specific Priorities**

### **4.1.2.1 Protection**

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<sup>20</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en)

<sup>21</sup> [https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/climate-change-and-environment\\_en](https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/climate-change-and-environment_en)



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In the West Bank, the intended protection outcomes should focus on reinforcing prevention, mitigation and response to settler violence, military incursions, and demolitions. This should be addressed within an integrated multi-sectoral approach to programming targeting households, communities and structures most exposed to protection violations. Moreover, given the sustained risks and protracted needs under this sector of intervention, DG ECHO will consider some actions for multiannual planning.

All the above should include evidence-based advocacy plans focused on reducing International Humanitarian Law (IHL) violations.

In Gaza, the integrated emergency preparedness and response programming should clearly be designed in line with an analysis of context-specific threats, hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities and must include a comprehensive protection response package and evidence-based advocacy plans founded on monitoring and documentation of IHL violations.

In both West Bank and Gaza, clear referral pathways to specialised protection services should be made available to address the various range of protection needs such as child protection, GBV, detention and other acute protection needs. Specialised protection services including individual case management and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)<sup>22</sup> service may be supported in line with international guidance. Quality, comprehensive and safe SGBV response services, including services integrated into health might be supported. Utilisation of cash in protection programming will not be supported unless it contains a clear protection outcome and embedded within legal assistance, case management or accompaniment, and within a wider comprehensive and integrated protection response.

#### **4.1.2.2 Health**

DG ECHO will prioritise interventions aimed at providing life-saving healthcare assistance to victims of violence and outbreaks, including emergency, surgical (e.g. trauma care), post-operative and rehabilitation care. Preparedness for response in the health sector may be considered to ensure that partners have the soft and hardware capacity to respond to emergencies in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) will only be considered as an emergency response intervention integrated with other health activities and / or mainstreamed in the proposed action.

In Gaza, priority will be given to health surveillance systems and Emergency Preparedness and Response along the trauma pathway with a focus on the pre-hospitalisation and hospitalisation phases.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has an impact on the provision and access to basic services, including healthcare it is only in case of critical gaps that DG ECHO would consider a response. Given the weak waste management infrastructure, care should be taken to minimise waste generated by these activities, and any chemical and hazardous waste should be safely disposed of, in line with the minimum environmental requirements.

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<sup>22</sup> Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) will only be considered as an emergency response intervention integrated with other activities and / or mainstreamed in the proposed action.

#### **4.1.2.3 WASH and Shelter**

For Gaza, interventions should aim to maintain a minimum level of WASH and Shelter emergency response capacity that also includes protection mainstreaming. With the exception of a major escalation in Gaza, DG ECHO will not consider a stand-alone shelter response. Programmes could prioritise activities that focus on linkages between WASH and Health, particularly in health clinics and hospitals, with clear sustainability elements. DG ECHO will also consider community-based early warning systems of public health risks associated with water borne diseases.

With regard to projects involving solar energy or other environmentally sustainable solutions, DG ECHO will prioritise interventions in critical facilities with demonstrated necessity, effectiveness, viability and impact. Particular attention should be paid to the coordination of the proposed intervention amongst all actors. Safe access to water is an area with potential for a nexus approach and should be done with a sensitivity to water scarcity in the region.

Palestine is affected by many environmental challenges, among them waste management issues (linked to generally poor/damaged infrastructure), unmet energy needs, water stress/ensuring access to water without over extraction, as well as desertification and land degradation, with an overuse of pesticides and fertilisers. Care should be taken to minimise waste generated by these activities, in line with the minimum environmental requirements.

#### **4.1.2.4 Livelihoods/Basic Needs**

As needs are often multiple, food assistance and emergency livelihood shall be part of a basic need approach. Modality choice should be informed by a needs-based response and risk analysis, incorporating joint and timely market analysis, operational and environmental analyses. 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 shock and vulnerability-based targeting, data interoperability (which respects data protection requirements) to facilitate deduplication and referrals, a common payment mechanism, a common feedback mechanism, a common results framework and a common monitoring 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. 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.

DG ECHO is committed to continue supporting unconditional and unrestricted cash transfers based on comprehensive analysis informing the transfer modality and its adaptation to contextual changes. Specific considerations include 1) quality, breadth, and frequency of multi-sectoral market analysis; 2) analysis of impact of inflation on different modalities; and 3) considerations for adaptation of cash assistance to inflation.

In Gaza, DG ECHO and like-minded donors aim to consolidate a Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) programme of sufficient scale to address basic needs of the most vulnerable among shock affected people. DG ECHO's response will be tailored to respond to shocks and specific, well-identified protection concerns.

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

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

Key elements of the MPCA programme in Gaza include:

- Close coordination with the Cash Working Group (CWG) and the national social protection system, i.e., the “National Cash Transfer Programme (NCTP) led by the Ministry of Social Development and supported by the EU - PEGASE instrument.
- Close coordination with CWG to support common, integrated and targeted approaches and inter-operable beneficiary platforms, to contribute to the development of comprehensive standardised and institutionalised referral pathways (including feedback loops) especially to protection, livelihoods, and health services.
- Improved preparedness and emergency response capacity for shocks feeding into the work of the CWG on strengthening collective preparedness efforts.
- Improved interoperability among humanitarian and between humanitarian and development actors to facilitate layering, referrals and graduation.
- A Crisis Modifier (CM) with clearly defined shocks and triggers and in line with broader risk management frameworks (e.g., ICCG contingency plan).
- Contribution to and use of market monitoring data.

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

In Gaza, partners should collectively generate evidence on what form of emergency livelihood support to whom (profile of beneficiaries) can offer sustainable graduation and

reduce dependence on humanitarian assistance. ECHO can fund referral pathways to these opportunities but should not prioritise funding for livelihoods support.

#### ***4.1.2.5 Education in Emergencies (EiE)***

DG ECHO will support EiE interventions with a focus on access to protective learning environments, including safe and violence-free schools, ensuring learning continuity in emergencies, and addressing the psycho-social support needs of children in highly vulnerable communities. Projects that demonstrate pertinent, efficient, coordinated, and harmonised approaches, based on lessons learned, will be taken into consideration (e.g., remedial education and/or extra-curricular activities that are school-based or, if not possible, activities to be linked to schools).

Interventions based on evidence, substantiated needs, with solid theory of change towards well identified attendance and learning outcomes will be considered. Approaches for impactful exit from schools, where possible, are to be sought and demonstrated. Efficiency must be optimised for example in the number and added value in the implementation layers/partners. Alignment with education in emergency sector framework is to be considered (e.g., on roles and responsibilities regarding at-risk students and school-based emergency preparedness).

In the West Bank, special focus should be directed to schools affected by demolitions, settler violence and military incursions. Preventative and responsive advocacy efforts for safe access to education must be considered. Advocacy and legal support to schools under attack are key elements of the protection of education in Palestine.

In the Gaza Strip, special consideration will be given to interventions that focus on timely emergency response and preparedness. The response package should demonstrate provisions for timeliness, as well as full relevance (e.g., rehabilitation based on needs, and short-term psychosocial support linked to longer-term interventions, if/as appropriate). In alignment with the school year, summer camps would be considered in projects, when relevant.

EiE interventions should demonstrate coordination, as necessary, with stakeholders, including the Ministry of Education, UNRWA, Education Cannot Wait, Joint Financing Arrangement donors and the Education Cluster to optimize synergies, complementarities and avoid overlap. Child protection is to be integrated with EiE. Coordination support will be considered, if relevant and duly justified.

#### ***4.1.2.6 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Preparedness (DP)***

All humanitarian actions must be risk informed. All projects submitted should therefore include a risk analysis, identifying the main threats for both the targeted populations and the action. Anticipatory and contingency measures should be embedded in the action to anticipate and mitigate the identified risks to the best possible extent.

The risk of conflict and escalation of violence remain the main entry points in 2023. DG ECHO will continue to support mass casualty management and trauma preparedness in most at-risk locations of East Jerusalem (EJ), the West Bank (WB), and Gaza Strip. Strengthening tools, services and mechanisms allowing to scale up and consolidate emergency health preparedness and response in case of escalations of violence remains a

priority. Partners are requested to apply a sound conflict sensitive approach considering the specificities of each targeted area. Sustainability, ownership, and anchorage of DP investments into the health system are essential. Plans for an exit strategy should be included in the targeted DP proposals.

Natural disasters can be considered if the vulnerability of local populations to these threats is sufficiently demonstrated. A country specific comprehensive approach encompassing all DP elements (EWS, SoPs, etc.) is required for targeted DP funding.

Proposed actions should focus on strengthening local response capacities and resilience building. Priority should be given to community-based systems and first-line responders, fostering as much as possible their integration into the national Disaster Risk Management (DRM) framework.

DP investments at community level will align with local and national priorities so that tools and mechanisms supported can be easily transferred to and managed by national and local services. Climate change, new technologies and cost-efficient modalities should be integrated in the design of the action. The use of Crisis Modifiers in volatile context, notably in Gaza, can be supported when duly justified.

All DRR/DP actions will have to include a strong focus on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and advocacy for effective DRM and community resilience. DP Partners will be requested to include protection sensitive tools at community level to ensure both inclusiveness and do no harm. Partners are encouraged to coordinate with protection actors to inform their community protection analysis.

#### ***4.1.2.7 Humanitarian Advocacy***

Advocacy, at all levels (both field level and international fora), can be supported when it is based on strong evidence and clear objectives: the causes of the on-going deterioration of the humanitarian situation can only be addressed through effective advocacy, by calling all parties to respect International Humanitarian and Human Rights Laws (IHL and IHRL).

Advocacy should primarily focus on key protection issues, such as violations of IHL and IHRL, a constantly shrinking humanitarian space affecting humanitarian workers and front-line staff, a prolonged blockade encompassing a variety of barriers and access restrictions, increased settler violence and intimidation, and increased attacks on education and health.

Partners willing to carry out advocacy initiatives must share a detailed advocacy plan providing information on the activities to be undertaken and under which timeframe, resources required for implementation, expected outcomes, as well as potential risks and mitigation measures to be put in place. Partners should develop realistic, achievable and concrete advocacy plans and objectives, as well as specify the level at which advocacy activities would be undertaken.

#### ***4.1.2.8 Humanitarian – Development – Peace nexus***

DG ECHO partners are encouraged to support the operationalisation of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus as long as the proposed interventions are in line with a well-coordinated and well-founded analysis and response. Social protection, WaSH and health have been identified as a priority to implement the nexus by building complementarities and synergies,

in particular with other EU services in alignment with the European Joint Strategy in support of Palestine 2021-2024.

For the WASH sector, partners are encouraged to engage with longer-term actors to secure the sustainability of services after emergency interventions through operation and maintenance schemes and local capacity building. For the Health sector, short-term investments on health preparedness and emergency response capacity and capabilities need to be embedded into health reforms and the national health system architecture.

Moreover, a new layer for a nexus approach is taken into consideration, where relevant/possible, using the area-based approach rather than a sector focused perspective. This approach can be particularly appropriate for areas facing complex, inter-related and multi sectoral needs. Its strength is realised through building a deeper understanding of the affected populations' holistic needs and complex contexts, and by building on community cohesion, governance structures, markets, and service delivery mechanisms.

DG ECHO aims also to further explore opportunities to increase efficiency and effectiveness of short-term multi-purpose humanitarian cash assistance by merging these aid streams into a fully-fledged shock responsive mechanism embedded into the Palestine-wide social protection programme.

Moreover, DG ECHO promotes the piloting of different approaches to linking humanitarian cash transfers to Government-led social protection system to generate comparative learning on basic needs outcome indicators during the action and beyond (see *Transfer modalities* under section 4.1.4 for further details).

## **STRENGTHENING EARLY RESPONSE CAPACITY**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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