

## TECHNICAL ANNEX

### SYRIA REGIONAL and LEBANON CRISES

#### 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).

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## 2. FINANCIAL INFO

Indicative Allocation<sup>2</sup>: EUR 262 310 266 of which an indicative amount of EUR 30 000 000 for Education in Emergencies.

In line with DG ECHO's commitment under the Grand Bargain initiative, pilot Programmatic Partnerships have been launched in 2020, 2021 and 2022 with a limited number of partners. An indicative amount of **EUR 1 000 000** will be dedicated to these Programmatic Partnerships in 2023. In addition, new Programmatic Partnerships could be signed in 2023<sup>3</sup>. Part of the allocation of this HIP could therefore also be attributed to these new Programmatic Partnerships.

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

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

<sup>3</sup> More information can be found in the 'Guidance to Partners – DG ECHO Programmatic partnerships 2023' <https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/ngo/humanitarian-partnership-2021-2027/programmatic-partnership>

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

Country(ies)	Action (a) Man-made crises and natural hazards	Action (b) Initial emergency response/sm all- scale/epide mics	Action (c) Disaster Prepared ness	Actions (d) to (f) Transport / Complement ary activities	TOTAL
SYRIA	182 596 000				182 596 000
LEBANON	66 986 523				66 986 523
Programmatic Partnership Coordination & Communication	227 743				227 743
JORDAN	12 500 000				12 500 000
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>262 310 266</b>

### 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 in exceptional cases, 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. For Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, multi-annual actions will be considered for the sectors listed 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 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 5 SYRIA**

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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.

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 11 500 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions related to this assessment round: The support will address food and WASH needs in Syria.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023<sup>6</sup>.
- d) Pre-selected partner: based on its comparative advantage, expertise and presence, the following partners have been pre-identified: WFP, CARE-AT, Goal-IR. No other application will be received.
- e) Information to be provided: Modification request of ongoing action<sup>7</sup>.
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the requested information: by 5/11/2023<sup>8</sup>.

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

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 3 500 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions related to this assessment round: the support will address the resilience of the WASH sector in Syria.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023<sup>9</sup>.
- d) Pre-selected partner: Based on its comparative advantage, expertise and presence, the following partner has been pre-identified: ICRC. No other application will be received.
- e) Information to be provided: Modification request of ongoing action<sup>10</sup>.
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the requested information: by 31/07/2023<sup>11</sup>.

#### **Allocation round 3 SYRIA**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 96 000<sup>12</sup>.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions related to this assessment round: the support will address emergency post-earthquake WASH interventions in Northwest Syria.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 06/02/2023<sup>13</sup>.

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<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. In case of amendments to existing agreements, the eligible date will however be the eligible date set in the initial agreement.

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

<sup>8</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>9</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>10</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>11</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>12</sup> This allocation is conditional upon the payment of a contribution by Portugal of EUR 100 000 to the EU budget as externally assigned revenue, minus a 4% management fee.

- d) Pre-selected partner: Based on its comparative advantage, expertise and presence, the following partner has been pre-identified: GOAL. No other application will be received.
- e) Information to be provided: Modification request of ongoing action<sup>14</sup>.
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the requested information: by 17/07/2023<sup>15</sup>.

### **Allocation round 2 SYRIA**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 25 000 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions related to this assessment round: support will seek to address needs following the earthquakes that hit Syria in February 2023. Special focus will be on the most affected areas and communities. Shelter, non-food items, cash, food needs, as well as WASH will be prioritised.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 06/02/2023.<sup>16</sup>
- d) Potential partners<sup>17</sup>: Based on their comparative advantage, expertise and presence, the following partners have been pre-identified: UNICEF, Oxfam, NRC, CARE AT, GOAL, Acted and WFP. No other applications will be received.
- e) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of ongoing actions.<sup>18</sup>
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 21/03/2023.<sup>19</sup>

### **Allocation round 1 SYRIA**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 142 500 000.
- b) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023.<sup>20</sup>

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

<sup>15</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>16</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>17</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>18</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>19</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>20</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

- c) 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>21</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions should have an initial duration of at least 24 months unless there is a need- or context-based justification for a shorter duration.
- d) Potential partners<sup>22</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners. Preselected partners: UNOCHA (continuation of Programmatic Partnership project).
- e) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of ongoing actions.<sup>23</sup>
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 16/01/2023.<sup>24</sup>

### **Allocation round 3 LEBANON**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 3 500 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions related to this assessment round: The support will focus on food security. Funds will be used to increase multi-purpose cash assistance for Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023.
- d) Preselected partner: based on its comparative advantage, expertise, presence and capacity to rapidly provide assistance at scale for Syrian refugees, UNHCR is preselected. No other application eligible.
- e) Information to be provided: modification request of ongoing action.
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 05/11/2023.

### **Allocation round 2 LEBANON**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 3 714 266
- b) Cost will be eligible<sup>4</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 the following country: Lebanon
- d) Information to be provided: Single form<sup>7</sup>

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amendments to existing agreements, the eligible date will however be the eligible date set in the initial agreement.

<sup>21</sup> Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

<sup>22</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>23</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>24</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.

### **Allocation round 1 LEBANON**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 60 000 000.
- b) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023.<sup>25</sup>
- c) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness. Education in Emergencies 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>26</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.
- d) Potential partners<sup>27</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners. Preselected partners: UNOCHA (continuation of Programmatic Partnership project).
- e) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions.<sup>28</sup>
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 23/01/2023.<sup>29</sup>

### **Allocation round 1 JORDAN**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 12 500 000.
- b) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023.<sup>30</sup>
- c) 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>31</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions should have an initial duration of at least 24 months unless there is a need- or context-based justification for a shorter duration.

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<sup>25</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>26</sup> Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

<sup>27</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>28</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>29</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>30</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>31</sup> Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.



- d) Potential partners<sup>32</sup>: All DG ECHO partners.
- e) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions.<sup>33</sup>
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 09/02/2023.<sup>34</sup>

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

##### *4.1.1 Assessment criteria:*

- 1) Relevance
  - How relevant is the proposed intervention; is it compliant with the objectives of the HIP?
  - Has a joint needs assessment been used for the proposed intervention (if existing)? Have other recent and comprehensive needs assessments been used?
  - Has the proposed intervention been coordinated with other humanitarian actors?
- 2) Capacity and expertise
  - Does the partner, with its implementing partners, have sufficient expertise (country/region and/or technical)?
  - How does the partner contribute to developing/strengthening local capacity?
- 3) Methodology and feasibility
  - Quality of the proposed response strategy, including intervention logic/log frame, output & outcome indicators, risks and challenges.
  - Feasibility, including security and access constraints.
  - Quality of the monitoring arrangements.
- 4) Coordination and relevant post-intervention elements
  - Extent to which the proposed intervention is to be implemented in coordination with other humanitarian actors and actions (including, where relevant, the use of single interoperable registries of beneficiaries).
  - Extent to which the proposed intervention contribute to resilience and sustainability.
- 5) Cost-effectiveness/efficiency/transparency

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

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

<sup>34</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 proposed intervention display an appropriate relationship between the resources to be employed, the activities to be undertaken and the objectives to be achieved?
- Is the breakdown of costs sufficiently documented/explained?<sup>35</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.

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

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

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

#### **Transfer modalities**

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>36</sup>, which will form the basis for the assessment and selection of partners. Partners will be expected to demonstrate a satisfactory efficiency ratio and should ensure that it is maintained throughout the action, unless otherwise approved by DG ECHO. To the extent possible and taking into account the operational context, partners will be assessed on their ability to work based on common targeting criteria, single or interoperable beneficiary registries, a single payment mechanism, a common feedback mechanism and a common results framework. The large-scale cash guidance note (Annex 1 of the cash thematic policy)

<sup>35</sup> In accordance with the relevant section of the Single Form guidelines (section 10).

<sup>36</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/thematic\\_policy\\_document\\_no\\_3\\_cash\\_transfers\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/thematic_policy_document_no_3_cash_transfers_en.pdf)

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.

The monitoring of MPC interventions should comply with the cross-cutting and sector-specific Grand Bargain MPC outcome indicators<sup>37</sup>. 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>38</sup>. 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.

### **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>39</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>40</sup>.

The HIP Policy Annex should be consulted in parallel.

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

### **STRENGTHENING EARLY RESPONSE CAPACITY**

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

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

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<sup>37</sup> <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/good-practice-review-on-cash-assistance-in-contextsof-high-inflation-and-depreciation/>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/good-practice-review-on-cash-assistance-in-contextsof-high-inflation-and-depreciation/>

<sup>39</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>40</sup> The 'Guidance on the operationalisation of the minimum environmental requirements and recommendations for EU-funded humanitarian aid operations' is already published on the DG ECHO Partner website under policy guidelines:  
<https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/download/referencedocumentfile/272>

## (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).

## **SYRIA**

### **Programming Priorities**

The 2023 strategy will aim to address acute humanitarian needs and promote the early recovery of conflict-affected people. Principled humanitarian assistance, protection, and advocacy (on IHL, IHRL and humanitarian principled action) are required, in the best interest of the affected population. DG ECHO will continue to highlight and advocate against recurrent violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Complementarity and alignment with other programmes that support sustainable humanitarian outcomes programming should be considered.

For all sectors of intervention, assistance must be delivered through the most appropriate, cost-effective, and efficient modalities and entry points (including through enhanced partnership with local humanitarian actors), in a timely, principled, and quality manner. DG ECHO will encourage partners to consolidate operational presence in the hub of intervention and capacity to directly implement and monitor their actions when possible.

DG ECHO welcomes the creation of consortia where they contribute to improved coordination and a more integrated multi-sectoral humanitarian response as well as cost-efficiency. A multi-sector response should be the norm and may involve several partners and/or mechanisms. A detailed multi-risk needs assessment should explain the response (sectors and modality of interventions). When possible, DG ECHO will prioritise actions that are coordinated with other interventions, promoting impactful and efficient responses.

The contextual specificities of each geographical area may also be considered in prioritising specific sectors and activities in each operational hub, with the aim to maximise the impact and effectiveness of DG ECHO's humanitarian response.

All sectors should include protection mainstreaming into their activities using the protection mainstreaming key outcome indicator (KOI) to ensure protection mainstreaming considerations are implemented and monitored at all stages and are operationalised as adaptations/corrective measures in programming. DG ECHO's partners are requested to ensure a risk and threat mapping of targeted communities and to include protection mainstreaming in the design of interventions in all sectors.

### **Thematic priorities**

#### **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS (DP) AND FIRST LINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE (FLER)**

To ensure flexible and rapid responses to sudden onset disasters in a volatile context, DG ECHO will continue to promote in-built multi-sectoral emergency response through its First Line Emergency Response (FLER) approach, in line with DG ECHO's Emergency Response Mechanism (ERM), and the use of Crisis Modifiers (CM) as appropriate and duly justified. FLER shall be limited to areas affected by volatile and severe level of insecurity, recurrent forced displacements, risks of extreme weather events (floods, storms) or epidemics.

Rapid assistance should cover lifesaving needs for one month, extendable to three months for the most vulnerable beneficiaries where no other assistance is available. FLER assistance should cover basic emergency needs, including food, emergency shelter, non-food items, via multi-purpose cash (MPCA) or in-kind assistance, complemented with WASH assistance when relevant. Referral pathways to essential services such as health, protection and education should be ensured systematically. When possible, DG ECHO encourages the use of MPCA to cover basic needs under FLER.

Partners with demonstrated emergency response capacity are strongly encouraged to include Crisis Modifiers (CM) in their project. Crisis Modifier mechanisms should be based on a multi-risk analysis and scenario planning.

Partners are invited to dedicate a specific CM result under the DRR/DP sector, with a budget attached.

To be effective, FLER assistance should be initiated within 72 hours after the shock. Partners should clearly define the triggers for activation, modality and package of assistance, timeliness, and monitoring process. Alignment with sector and cluster technical guidance is mandatory. Ensuring synergies with existing rapid response mechanisms in place is essential.

## **HEALTH**

DG ECHO will prioritise life-saving healthcare actions through the provision of sustainable quality health services. Continuity of care should aim to ensure positive outcomes for all patients reaching support health structures.

The specific needs of Persons with Disabilities (PhDs) should be properly addressed in health interventions. Mental health and rehabilitation services for PwD should be considered.

To enforce the Do No Harm principle and protection mainstreaming, WASH and Protection component should be part of any Health action.

DG ECHO will prioritise the delivery of primary health care (PHC) in areas where essential services are not available and where partners can demonstrate a significant risk of disease outbreak or heightened mortality.

DG ECHO may consider supporting secondary health care services (SHC) and structures as complementary access to continuity of care only where strongly justified by the criticality and life-saving nature of identified needs. Partners should consider internal and external referral mechanisms with a clear outcome.

Needs assessments of new proposals should be based on Health Information System data and coordinated mapping. Proposals should reflect lessons learned from previous projects in the sector of health.

DG ECHO will support Nutrition interventions that prioritise life-saving curative activities such as treatment of Severe and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (SAM/MAM). Interventions may include an integrated design to respond to various contributory causes underlying acute malnutrition, e.g. focusing on areas with significant prevalence of acute malnutrition, addressing the critical nutritional and food needs of specific groups such as caregivers and children. Acute malnutrition needs will be addressed in areas where the GAM emergency threshold has been exceeded, where local capacities are insufficient, and/or in high-risk or shock affected areas. Nutritional assistance should offer early diagnosis, treatment of acute malnutrition integrated in a minimum package of health care services and priority accompanying measures for children and mothers.

Ensuring high quality of life saving healthcare services and medical supplies provided is a priority. All supported health facilities need to abide by international IPC standards.

All health proposal to DG ECHO should clearly detail:

- a) List of PHC and SHC centres to be supported, location of each centre, catchment population, total number of consultations foreseen (primary and/or secondary) per centre, number of health workers per PHC and/or SHC centre, and number of days opened per week.
- b) Estimated unit cost per PH consultation.

Regarding both PHC and SHC, partners are expected to include in their proposals: a) a clear mapping of existing health facilities and referral pathway and b) analysis on the added value of the proposed health action.

## **PROTECTION**

DG ECHO places the protection of affected populations at the centre of its response, and protection service delivery as a priority, whether at individual or community level. Safeguarding measures and accountability mechanisms should be established across the response. Specific activities proposed must be based on up-to-date and comprehensive protection risk analysis as well as demonstrated capacities and expertise to provide quality services following a Do No Harm approach. Access and working modalities should be elaborated.

Protection interventions will be considered along the following modalities:

- Interventions can be designed in the form of a) stand-alone protection actions, or b) integrated protection programming.
- To ensure the quality of specialised protection services and safety of service providers and beneficiaries, DG ECHO will consider supporting specialised capacity building activities for frontline workers based on training needs assessment and focusing on effective delivery of protection services. A solid capacity building and coaching plan should be included in the proposal. Support to inter-agency coordination to improve technical capacity could be considered.
- Partners are expected to contribute to a comprehensive service mapping and referral mechanism within their specific areas of intervention. All protection activities should be part of the inter-agency protection mechanisms already in place in Syria.
- Protection interventions need to provide a full package of protection services including protection monitoring, outreach activities to ensure targeting of people at high protection risk and survivors of violence, case management and referrals. A strong protection risk analysis shall allow for identification of the most vulnerable and marginalised individuals including Persons with Disabilities, regardless of status but based on protection needs and humanitarian criteria. These interventions should be built on a solid knowledge of the context and respect of ethical and safety considerations, including data protection.

Specific protection interventions which can be considered include, among others:

- Prevention and Response to violence: Partners are expected to prioritise the provision of quality, comprehensive and safe specialised protection services, accessible to all persons at risks, prioritising individuals at high protection risk and victims of protection violations, ensuring that survivors' wishes, safety and dignity remain at the centre of the response.
- Activities which can be supported include case management for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), child protection violations and other protection violations, provision of specialised services including safety options, alternative care, legal aid and counselling, family tracing when feasible, Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (PSS). All PSS activities must demonstrate an improvement in well-being through relevant and SMART indicators. Referral to adequate medical services should be made available to GBV survivors when possible.

- Partners including case management in their proposal should consider availability of services and providers and demonstrate the existence of referral pathways, including to internal and external providers.
- Awareness raising standalone activities will not be considered.
- Prevention/mitigation of protection-related negative coping mechanisms should be conducted through integrated programming demonstrating the complementarity between sectors interventions and the protection outcomes.
- Cash for protection will be considered only where part of a broader response (e.g. case management) and only when the linkages between the use of cash and protection outcomes is clearly demonstrated.
- Support to programmes focusing on children associated with armed forces and armed groups and children deprived of their liberty can also be considered, if partners can demonstrate adequate access and relevant technical expertise.
- For people deprived of liberty, activities may include monitoring of detention conditions through systemic approaches, provision of protection services for vulnerable detainees such as children or the Persons with Disability, delivery of specific Mental Health/Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) targeting victims of torture and abuse. - DG ECHO will prioritise interventions with specialised agencies when operating in detention centres or internment camps.
- Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) activities will be considered only in conflict affected areas and when duly justified by the number of casualties figures or to promote access to essential humanitarian services. While DG ECHO recognises the importance of clearance activities to revitalise livelihood opportunities and the need to strengthen and promote a comprehensive approach to HMA, partners are encouraged to identify alternative and more sustainable sources of funding.
- Access to civil documentation could be supported. DG ECHO will not support House Land and Propriety-related interventions (HLP) with protection funding, while HLP considerations should be considered and properly integrated in all shelter and CCCM programmes.

### **WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH), SHELTER, SITES AND SETTLEMENT (S&S) AND CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)**

WASH, S&S and CCCM (including camp decommission closure) actions require basic Environmental Screening to be conducted, potential impact/risks identified and addressed with basic mitigation measures (as per new DG ECHO Minimum Environmental Requirements - MER).

### **WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENCE (WASH)**

DG ECHO will prioritise interventions aiming at delivering safe drinking water and sanitation. Components can include:

1. Safe water supply, through a) water trucking - only as last resort, b) Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of existing water networks, and c) systems' repairs that could include small-scale extension of water transportation/distribution networks (including water supply systems' operation and maintenance cost after rehabilitation), d) rainwater harvesting. Partners are requested to include in their proposals:



- I. Foreseen water quantity (litres per person per day (L/P/D) to be provided and due justification). Duration of the water supply services, with detailed exit strategy, if any.
  - II. Total cost per m<sup>3</sup> (at distribution point).
  - III. Water quality monitoring protocol (including the frequency / sample size at source, distribution, and collection points).
  - IV. Energy supply source: priority would be given to renewable energy supply systems, when/where feasible.
  - V. In case of light rehabilitation or small-scale extension of water networks: description of required works (based on damages) and total costs are requested. More detailed documentation in terms of technical designs/specifications, and related Bill of Quantities (BoQ) must be provided before the implementation of works.
  - VI. Partner's assessment on a) ownership and b) potential sustainability of all water supply systems proposed (in case of cost recovery pilot schemes, a clear description should be provided).
2. **Sanitation:** Sanitation interventions in IDP camps/sites will be prioritised. A maintenance plan and associated costs should be included in all proposals. Community incentives could be considered for maintenance and cleaning of sanitation facilities, where duly justified. Wastewater management and/or solid waste management can be supported, particularly when partners can demonstrate its direct relation to life-threatening health conditions and risks such as communicable diseases. Cost per beneficiary should be included in proposals, as well as duration of the support foreseen.
3. While stand-alone **Hygiene Promotion (HP)** activities will not be considered, they may be considered within a water and sanitation project if supported by a detailed HP strategy, based on harmonised messages and communication channels in line with specific WASH Cluster and WHO guidelines. Specific focus could lay e.g. on children, or on cholera preparedness/response (where needed).

## **SHELTER AND SITES & SETTLEMENT (S&S)**

DG ECHO may consider the following components:

1. Small scale light repair of houses (up to max EUR 1 000 per household), targeting extremely vulnerable families, preferably for people owning the house. In case of landlord housing, partners should ensure a free rental or at least frozen rent prices for at least 12 months for the direct beneficiaries.
2. Temporary shelter units (TSU) may be considered on a case-by-case basis. This includes so-called “dignified shelter initiative”. Partners including this type of shelter should specify in their proposals:
  - a. Site plan, including drainage.
  - b. Technical specifications of the TSU and timeframe needed for its set up.
  - c. Unit cost per TSU in Euros.
  - d. Expected lifespan.
  - e. Cost of connections to sewage, drainage, and water supply (if available/feasible).

3. Small scale rehabilitation of collective centres, while taking COVID preventive and mitigation measures into consideration.
4. Regarding winterization, DG ECHO will prioritise cash assistance as the main modality; transfer value to beneficiaries should be in line with the SNFI cluster/Cash working groups recommendations. Other modalities could be considered only with solid justification.

### **CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)**

DG ECHO may consider support to fixed or mobile CCCM teams in IDP camps/sites (formal or informal) with the highest/most acute needs in terms of camp coordination and management. Partners are requested to refer to the CCCM Cluster or Working Group regarding the prioritisation and identification of those IDP camps/sites

### **FOOD ASSISTANCE/SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS (FSL)**

Food assistance should be part of a basic need approach. Needs and future risks should be identified through a combination of food security analysis and multi-disciplinary early warning systems (e.g. climate outlook, price trends) to allow for preparedness and early response.

Key elements of the FSL sector include:

- Actions should use an integrated approach aiming at reducing prevalence of food insecurity. Targeted support to tackle severe levels of household food insecurity based on the main outcome indicators (Food Consumption Score, Coping Strategy Index) should be provided under most suitable intervention modalities (e.g. cash, voucher, in-kind) through joint, impartial, evidence-based needs assessments and response analysis.
- Targeting should be based on needs and vulnerabilities of households in close coordination with the Food Security Cluster (FSC) and Cash Working Group (CWG).
- Close coordination with FSC & CWG to contribute to the development of a comprehensive standardised and institutionalised referral pathways (including feedback loops) especially to livelihood, protection, nutrition and health services.
- Improved inter-operability between humanitarian actors to facilitate layering and referrals.

Contribution to and use of market monitoring data.

DG ECHO is committed to continue supporting unconditional & unrestricted cash transfers when proved efficient and effective based on a comprehensive analysis, informing the transfer modality and especially the strategy to adapt the modality according to contextual changes. Specific considerations should include:

- 1) Quality, breadth, and frequency of multi-sectoral market analysis.
- 2) Analysis of impact of inflation on different modalities.
- 3) Considerations for adaptation of food assistance modality to inflation and exchange rate including analysis of increasing adequacy vs coverage, considering how to maintain cost-efficiency and food security outcomes.

When operationally feasible and in accordance with the above considerations, DG ECHO and like-minded donors aim to consolidate a Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) programme of sufficient scale to address basic needs (including food security and related multi-faceted needs) of the most vulnerable people. In order to increase coordination and impact, and increase coherence, DG ECHO encourages partners to:

- a) consider regular MPCA in proposals (transfer value in line with CWG). Beneficiaries of regular MCPA should not overlap with other large scale food assistance programmes.
- b) explore opportunities of setting-up a consortium preferably per hub and.
- c) set up a common inter-operable platform per hub (if not already set up) for data management and deduplication of beneficiaries (with potential for upscale in the future).

DG ECHO may consider the provision of emergency livelihood support and/or food system programming so long as it is prompted by emergency needs and meets humanitarian objectives within an appropriate and defined timeframe. Specific considerations include:

- a. Purpose: To achieve self-sufficiency of beneficiaries covering humanitarian needs in a timeframe of 12-18 months.
- b. Range of activities considered: Emergency livelihood support at household level or communal level. This may include agri-based livelihood and/or non-agri-based livelihoods in non-rural areas (for instance in IDP camps, or urban areas).

Targeting: A limited number of vulnerable households with well identified existing livelihood capacities/skills and well-defined selection criteria.

### **EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES (EiE)**

With the aim to support safe and sustained access to quality education, DG ECHO will target out-of-school children and children already enrolled in formal education but at risk of dropping out to promote their successful (re)integration.

DG ECHO will prioritise Non-Formal Education (NFE), in line with applicable sector frameworks, to provide relevant and effective pathways to enter, re-enter or stay in formal education (direct referral of out-of-school children to school, who do not need NFE, is to be ensured). Targeted approaches – with corresponding indicators and reliable/valid measurement - to ensure retention, progression, transition to formal education and learning outcomes according to defined standards must be demonstrated. Partners may establish referrals to vocational and livelihood streams, where appropriate. Proposals should comply with the policy framework for EiE set in the Commission staff working document ‘Education in Emergencies in EU-funded Humanitarian Aid Operations’.<sup>41</sup>

Specific EIE interventions which can be considered include:

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<sup>41</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/news/190328%20SWD%20EiE%20in%20EU-funded%20Humanitarian%20Aid%20Operations%20SWD\(2019\)150%20final.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/news/190328%20SWD%20EiE%20in%20EU-funded%20Humanitarian%20Aid%20Operations%20SWD(2019)150%20final.pdf)

- Non-formal education, such as literacy/numeracy, accelerated, remedial, exam support.
- Training and structured guidance of teachers involved in NFE activities. Capacity development should be based on identified teacher needs compared to objectives; its effectiveness, in terms of knowledge/skills gained and applied in the classroom, is to be measured.
- Light repairs of school facilities to ensure minimum standard of safety and protection for children in NFE/out-of-school to enter and remain in school; rehabilitation of basic WASH services, not least to ensure safety against COVID-19 and other identified health risks. Quality assurance for these activities includes needs and damages assessment, cost estimates, description of works, BoQs.
- Teaching and learning material support for children and teachers involved in NFE activities.
- EiE interventions are to be linked to child protection activities, including psycho-social support/recreation.

Partners will need to indicate the selection criteria in terms of areas of intervention/schools based on severity of education needs and gaps identified, and beneficiary selection will need to be based on reliable/triangulated evidence of education needs, with conflict sensitivity considered.

The proposed duration of projects is to match the achievement of targeted outcomes. All proposals should demonstrate continuity/sustainability and exit strategy, where appropriate. Alignment with Cluster/sector frameworks, as appropriate, is to be demonstrated.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

Contributions can be provided towards the support to common services aiming at: a) safe access, b) safety & security advice, c) humanitarian flight services, d) logistics, and e) information data collection and dissemination to humanitarian stakeholders. In addition, support to clusters and/or coordination WGs (coordination tasks) can be considered when added value is demonstrated. All support services must operate inclusively and in respect of humanitarian principles.

## **LEBANON**

### **Programming priorities**

Building on the objectives set out in previous DG ECHO strategies, programming priorities in 2023 will aim to keep strengthening the protection space and dignity of refugees seeking safety in Lebanon while addressing new crises which are negatively affecting the vulnerability of population residing in the country. Within this context, the strategy will be an integral part of the broader EU response in Lebanon, designed in synergy with interventions funded under other EU instruments considering the humanitarian analysis from different assessments including the Multi-sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), and the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR).

Protection is a core priority of DG ECHO's strategy. DG ECHO expects that protection of all persons affected and at-risk informs humanitarian decision-making and response.

The 2023 strategy will focus on the following key programmatic pillars:

- Access to basic needs, including public services, health and education to address the impact of the compounded crises affecting Lebanon, which further induce socio-economic vulnerabilities of the most at-risk population.
- Strengthening protection space for refugees, including promotion of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law (IHRL).
- Protection assistance, including legal assistance, to populations of concern.
- Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response.

DG ECHO promotes integrated programming that is time-bound with solid referral pathways. Partners must demonstrate in-country capacities in all sectors of the proposed intervention. Partners must demonstrate compliance with all protection mainstreaming elements, namely “safety, dignity and avoiding causing harm”, including applying conflict sensitivity in project design and implementation, “meaningful access”, accountability towards affected populations (AAP), including Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH), as well as meaningful participation.

Contingency planning should be clearly defined in the Action. Partners should demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of their proposed Actions, not least through enhanced synergies, and engage in strong analysis and advocacy.

DG ECHO requires partners to demonstrate the impact of their projects on the environment and to present greening solutions mainstreamed throughout.

## **Thematic priorities**

### **BASIC NEEDS**

For Syrian refugees, DG ECHO continues to support a single multipurpose cash (MPC) programme to meet basic needs, complemented by other modalities and the reinforcement of referral mechanisms, to meet specific sectoral outcomes. For the Lebanese component of cash programming, interventions must be aligned with the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) and the Lebanon Emergency Crisis and COVID-19 Response Social Safety Net (ESSN) Project. 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 EUR 10 million should comply with the large-scale cash guidance note, Annex 1.

Under the LCRP, this programming must be based on a common programming approach, organised under the Louise Platform, with the aim of reducing fragmentation and work with streamlined systems created to avoid duplication and parallel ways of working. This includes common vulnerability targeting criteria, single or inter-operable beneficiary registries, a single payment mechanism, a common complaints and communication mechanism and a common results framework.

For the MPC interventions targeting vulnerable Lebanese, partners should address the exclusion errors of the national programmes, document profiles and undertake standardised analysis of eligibility criteria in order to improve targeting, address common approaches to de-duplication, ensure referrals into the national programmes as well as

other appropriate interventions. MPC must be part of an integrated programming (cash plus approach).

Given the high inflationary volatility and social tension associated with cash assistance, all programming should be risk informed and targeted based on well-defined socio-economic vulnerability of individuals and groups. Clear differentiation is to be made between MPC and recurrent protection cash.

The implementation of the cash modalities must be in line with the HCT two-phased approach for cash transfer in humanitarian action, with the adoption of either dollarisation or value for money approaches, taking into account the associated risks and mitigation measures, in particular in relation to beneficiaries' safety and the capacity of financial service providers (FSPs). Continuous monitoring of value for money must lead to the most optimised modality based on community-based consultations. Contingency for the failing systems, bank closure, market functionality should be elaborated in the proposal document.

The Transfer Value (TV) should be defined based on an estimation of the gap between the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) and beneficiaries' resources and be sufficient to cover or contribute to recurrent basic needs plus other specific needs arising. The TV provided to vulnerable Lebanese by DG ECHO partners is to equal the value of the NPTP and ESN programmes and must be paid in USD in line with the relevant payments to the most vulnerable Lebanese in the national programmes.

DG ECHO will systematically assess the cost-efficiency, using the Total Cost to Transfer Ratio (TCTR), alongside analysis of the effectiveness of the overall humanitarian response.

The sectoral and multi-sectorial outcomes of cash programmes should be monitored against internationally accepted norms in a consistent way and should comply with the cross-cutting and sector-specific Grand Bargain MPC outcome indicators.

Markets (supply chains, access and availability, price trends) should be monitored consistently to inform and adapt assistance, irrespective of the modality. Given Lebanon's spiralling inflation and currency depreciation, partners under the leadership of and in collaboration with the sectoral working groups, have to put in place measures to track the evolution of purchasing power in comparison to the (S)MEB, define triggers to adapt cash assistance based on market monitoring data, and design programmes from the outset to anticipate inflationary shocks.

## **PROTECTION**

Protection interventions will be supported through the following modalities:

- Protection monitoring: the systematic collection and analysis of trends, risks, and gaps in evidence, to inform programmatic adjustments and advocacy efforts. Protection monitoring should ensure sufficient flexibility throughout the course of the action to be able to include emerging risks in a timely manner. Protection monitoring activities should always be complemented by direct assistance and effective referrals to relevant services/assistance.
- Provision of legal protection, including legal counselling and assistance, access to documentation, in accordance with IHRL.

- Ensuring the upholding of the principle of *non-refoulement* by supporting refugee registration and documentation.
- Life-saving protection response including assistance to evictees/people at high risk of eviction (as part of multi-sectoral assistance), safe shelters, individual case management, prioritising high-risk cases.
- In line with DG ECHO's Humanitarian Protection Policy, the use of cash to achieve protection outcomes will only be considered as part of a broader protection response. The causal link between cash transfers and protection outcome should be detailed at proposal stage and systematically monitored through the Action. Partners should demonstrate a strong referral/coordination to/with basic assistance or livelihoods programmes. Mitigation of risks due to cash provision also needs to be reflected in any protection cash assistance activity.
- Preventative components aimed at changing harmful social norms will be considered only when tailored, targeted, and cost-efficient on a minimum duration of 24 months.
- DG ECHO will prioritise protection integrated programming aimed at preventing/mitigating protection-related negative coping mechanisms (e.g. worst forms of child labour, early marriages, survival sex, etc.). Risk analysis should demonstrate the root of negative coping mechanisms.

## **HEALTH**

DG ECHO will prioritise life-saving health interventions and continuum of care. Proposed Actions will have to be in line with Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) existing frameworks and include a clearly defined needs assessment and exit strategy, as well as clear severity entry points.

Access to primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare services for extremely vulnerable individuals may be supported. Primary healthcare should be part of integrated programming. It should be complementary to, and strengthen, the DG NEAR NDICI programme on Primary Health Care. As part of the continuum of care, certain patient groups may be supported through the NDC medication programme. Community-based initiatives and outreach may be supported as long as the centrality of facility-based PHC is taken into consideration, as is the integration and support to family medicine. Innovative approaches addressing (financial) access and human resources for health as well as quality of care of (preventive) basic services are promoted.

Emergency health interventions and preparedness should be linked with disaster risk management structures, have clear pathways and alignment with surveillance.

Integrated health programming may include protection services, e.g. in the field of sexual and reproductive/mental health, and access to legal services/justice. Referral systems should include both health and non-health services to optimise prevention and successful treatment outcomes. Special focus should be devoted to chronically ill, elderly and people with special needs (former PwD).

Applying cash in healthcare programming will only be considered on a case-by-case basis and if justified by in-depth assessment and analysis of the availability of appropriate healthcare options (adequate provision of quality care, access to medical supply, etc.) in the proposed areas of intervention. Potential cash applications in healthcare and nutrition

interventions will need to have clear anchorage on sound evidence and expected healthcare and nutrition outcomes, with the inclusion of associated indicators in the proposal.

Nutrition interventions could be considered where emergency needs are clearly demonstrated, as defined by the standard WHO thresholds for acute nutritional emergencies and whenever there is a clear gap in response that would require a DG ECHO contribution.

### **EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES (EiE)**

DG ECHO will prioritise Non-Formal Education (NFE)/pathways for vulnerable out-of-school refugee children/adolescents to support sustained entry/re-entry in formal education, while also focusing on educational performance.

The actions should align with applicable sector frameworks (including MEHE curriculum), and ensure retention and progression in NFE, including measuring clear learning outcomes/attainment. Approaches to encourage transition to formal education, in all cases possible, are to be demonstrated. Best practices to strengthen the above outcomes – with structured approaches that could be replicated within the education sector - will be considered.

All NFE activities/pathways must demonstrate complementarity with formal education, considering a conflict-sensitive approach. Integrated EiE and child protection actions are strongly encouraged.

Information systems, planning and data/evidence, quality assurance and coordination may be supported, as relevant.

Proposals will need to specify how alignment with evolving education sector frameworks will be ensured and allow for flexibility of programming towards this. DG ECHO expects partners to actively participate in relevant coordination fora, providing evidence and lessons learned through a comprehensive analysis of present and anticipated opportunities and risks affecting the sector. Contingency preparedness embedded in project design to ensure sustained relevance and effectiveness, in face of identified risks, is to be presented.

Partners will be expected to indicate the selection criteria in terms of areas of intervention based on the severity of education needs and gaps, access to the community and capacity of response/scale-up.

Partners are also expected to provide baselines and targets, critically and timely examine and act on lessons learned for strengthening and show strategic and advocacy engagement. Complementarity and synergy with other projects, donors, and stakeholders, not least to ensure sustained and successful education participation, are strongly encouraged. Necessary capacity, monitoring, and quality assurance of implementing partners is to be evidenced.

### **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS (DP) AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

The rapidly changing context in Lebanon requires that, in areas most at risk, partners mainstream DRR/DP in their humanitarian responses. Anticipatory and contingency measures should be embedded in partners' actions to anticipate and mitigate risks to the best extent possible. Priority threats to consider are related to increased insecurity and



escalation of violence while small to medium scale natural shocks (epidemics, floods, fires), and mass evictions, could be considered if their likelihood and impact on local populations is sufficiently evidenced. Partners with demonstrated emergency response capacity are strongly encouraged to propose crisis modifiers (CM). Triggers for activation, modality and package of assistance, timeliness, and monitoring process should be clearly defined. Partners are invited to dedicate a specific CM result under the DRR/DP sector, with a budget attached.

In 2023, DG ECHO envisages to continue supporting the specific partnership with IFRC on DRR/DP in support of local and national responders, to enhance their resilience, and ultimately improve in-country preparedness and response capacity within existing governmental, national and community DRM structures. Innovation-based and digital approaches should be enhanced where relevant while ensuring operational alignment at all administrative levels. Integration of conflict sensitivity and focus on urban areas are highly encouraged. Complementarity and synergies with DRR/DP initiatives supported by other EU instruments (DG NEAR) is essential.

## **COORDINATION AND ADVOCACY**

DG ECHO may fund support services, such as coordination, access, logistics and joint assessments addressing harmonised response across frameworks.

Development of robust information management systems and analytical products will be supported if they lead to informed programming decisions and evidence-based advocacy (operational and with regard to humanitarian space).

DG ECHO may support initiatives aimed at strengthening the accountability to affected populations.

## **JORDAN**

### **Programming priorities**

The effects of the conflict in Ukraine combined with COVID 19 pandemic on the socio-economic situation in Jordan strongly impact refugees and vulnerable Jordanians' resilience and capacity to access basic services as well as their physical safety and psychosocial wellbeing. As a result, and despite the protracted nature of the crisis and the opening to transitional/NEXUS paths, humanitarian aid remains vital in certain niche interventions and sectors.

Building on the objectives set out in previous DG ECHO strategies, programming priorities in 2023 will aim to keep strengthening the protection space and dignity of refugees seeking safety in Jordan as well as access to basic services. Within this context, the strategy will be an integral part of the broader EU response in Jordan, designed in synergy with interventions funded under other EU/development instruments.

DG ECHO's priorities in 2023 will continue to focus on strengthening the asylum space as well as on the provision of timely, adequate, and appropriate humanitarian assistance to persons stranded in border areas, to refugees living in camps and/or in host communities, and to vulnerable Jordanians, based on vulnerability assessments. In 2023, DG ECHO will support the following thematic priorities:

## **Thematic priorities**

### **PROTECTION**

Protection must be addressed systematically in all proposals, ensuring that the four elements of protection mainstreaming are monitored throughout the action, as a minimum.

Proposed target groups could include people living in camps and vulnerable host communities, as well as those stranded at the ‘Berm’. Protection integrated programming, including creating synergies between humanitarian and development programmes (e.g. MPCA/protection) will be considered for funding. Integrated programming must ensure outcomes in all sectors of intervention and partners must demonstrate in-country capacities and a close inter-sector collaboration from the design of the action. The use of cash as prevention and risk mitigation tool (i.e. protection-related negative coping mechanisms) will be supported only if evidence regarding the actual impact is provided at proposal stage

As for stand-alone protection interventions, DG ECHO will consider programmes focusing on both physical and legal protection, in specific programmes aiming at:

- Providing support to obtain civil and legal documentation with a view to enhance refugees’ protection as well as access to essential basic services. Proposed actions should address legal support and/or accompaniment of protection cases beyond basic legal counselling.
- Providing specialised protection assistance for victims of violence or vulnerable groups at risk due to specific discrimination or risk factors. Some additional considerations:

DG ECHO expects partners to develop robust referral mechanisms, based on in depth service mapping, and ensure systematic monitoring of the effectiveness of referrals.

Response to GBV will still be considered, yet in link with existing longer-term approaches supported by development-oriented actors, aiming at addressing the issue at system level, and with a view to transition whenever feasible. In addition, related services must be integrated within Reproductive Health (RH) services where possible.

DG ECHO will consider Cash for Protection components only as part of case management. The link between cash transfers and protection outcomes should be clearly highlighted in the proposal.

DG ECHO will also consider funding advocacy with a focus on asylum space and access to basic services. Some examples (non-exhaustive) below:

- Advocacy for refugees’ access to and legal stay in the Jordanian territory, upholding the principle of non-refoulement as well as principled humanitarian assistance delivery to individuals seeking international protection in Jordan.
- Advocacy to grant unhindered humanitarian access wherever needed.
- Advocacy for voluntary, safe, and dignified durable solutions including advocacy for self-reliance for those stranded at the Berm.
- Advocacy towards camp management and relevant authorities to expedite refugees’ screening in Azra camp, thus guaranteeing freedom of movement and access to the necessary services including basic needs, health, and protection.

## **HEALTH**

Since 2019, Syrian refugees can access health services in hospitals and health centres run by the Ministry of Health for the same price as non-insured Jordanians, on the condition that they can demonstrate holding both UNHCR documentation and a registration card from the Ministry of Interior. Similarly, since August 2020, non-Syrian refugees have the same access to health care as Syrian refugees. Against that background, DG ECHO will consider funding specific health interventions among the following:

### **In host communities**

Specific interventions, including cash for health, could be proposed for immediate lifesaving needs in specific locations or where critical gaps in essential healthcare service provision for refugees and the most vulnerable Jordanians are identified. Clear transitional / exit strategy should be demonstrated by partners.

### **In camp settings**

- Proposals ensuring that refugees, including newly arrived ones, have direct access to health services according to their needs will be prioritised.
- Activities aimed at ensuring functioning, robust referral mechanisms, including follow-up, will be considered. The methodology to capture, track and follow-up referred cases until their completion must be described in proposals (e.g. type of cases disaggregated by age/sex, waiting times, especially for chronic conditions or elective surgery, end result, etc.).

## **WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)**

Specific activities could be proposed should immediate lifesaving needs be identified in specific locations.

## **EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES (EiE)**

DG ECHO will only consider education activities (at compulsory basic education level) that support vulnerable refugee children/adolescents in refugee camps to successfully enter, remain and progress in formal education. This may include non-formal education activities, in line with sector regulations, as well as protective school environments. Strengthening of coordination to optimise relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency of education response, starting from camp level, may be proposed, if justified. EiE interventions must ensure that child protection-related issues are timely and effectively responded to by professional actors (either directly when partners have demonstrated relevant capacities or through referrals). All proposals will need to have a solid results framework, with baselines established and targets correspondingly set, with outcomes reliably and validly measured, and targeted approaches to improve these, based on clearly identified lessons and critical analysis for strengthening.

Interventions need to demonstrate alignment, complementarity and synergy with other projects/partners and development programmes, with clear identification of value added. Coordination arrangements, with identified objectives and approaches, including with the Education Sector Working Group at both central and decentralised levels (as applicable) as well as with NEXUS/development programmes, will need to be detailed, not least showing engagement in the relevant response frameworks. The duration of projects should be set to

allow for achievement of objectives. All proposals will need to consider an exit strategy, aiming for maximised impact and continuity/sustainability. To ensure appropriate sector alignment, all education interventions will need to be proposed under EIE, in line with the national sector plan.