

TECHNICAL ANNEX

UKRAINE, WESTERN BALKANS AND EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD

FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

The provisions of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2023/01000 and the General Conditions of the Agreement with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

The activities proposed hereafter are subject to any terms and conditions that may be included in the related Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP).

1. CONTACTS

Operational Unit in charge	DG ECHO ¹ /C2
Contact persons	
Ukraine/Moldova at HQ	Cristina Martinez Gallego, Cristina.martinez-gallego@ec.europa.eu Estelle Petit, Estelle.petit@ec.europa.eu Stefano Del Bino, Stefano.del-bino@ec.europa.eu Kirsten Noben, Kirsten.noben@ec.europa.eu Veronica Ekelund, Veronica.ekelund@ec.europa.eu Simone Cappati, Simone.cappati@ec.europa.eu Felix Blatt, Jean-Felix-Aristide.BLATT@ext.ec.europa.eu
in the field	Claudia Amaral, Claudia.Amaral@echofield.eu David Sevcik, David.sevcik@echofield.eu Volodymyr Kuzka Volodymyr.kuzka@echofield.eu Samuel Marie-Fanon, Samuel.Marie-Fanon@echofield.eu Andrea Trevisan, andrea.trevisan@echofield.eu Mariia Alieksieienko, mariia.alieksieienko@echofield.eu Sem Weemaels, sem.weemaels@echofield.eu Oleksandr Yevsieiev, oleksandr.yevsieiev@echofield.eu
Western Balkans/South Caucasus HQ:	Valentina Tresoldi, valentina.tresoldi@ec.europa.eu IRATO Eliana Eliana.Irato@echofield.eu

¹ Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)

In the field: David Sevcik, David.sevcik@echofield.eu
GOVAERT Nicolas Nicolas.Govaert@echofield.eu

2. FINANCIAL INFO

Indicative Allocation²: EUR 335 434 596 of which an indicative amount of EUR 21 299 680 for Education in Emergencies.

Indicative breakdown per Actions as per Worldwide Decision (in euros)³:

Country(ies)	Action (a) Man-made crises and natural hazards	Action (b) Initial emergency response/sma ll- scale/epidemi cs	Action (c) Disaster Preparedness	Actions (d) to (f) Transport / Complementary activities	TOTAL
Ukraine	300 144 000				300 144 000
Moldova	20 052 800				20 052 800
South Caucasus Region	12 607 796				12 607 796
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2 630 000				2 630 000

3. PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT

a) Co-financing:

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

b) Financial support to third parties (implementing partners)

² 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.

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

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

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

c) Alternative arrangements

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

d) Field office costs

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

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

and

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

e) Actions embedded in multiannual strategies

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

f) Regional and multi-country actions

Regional/multi-country actions can be supported under this HIP (and where relevant in conjunction with other HIPs⁴), 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

Ukraine allocation round 3

a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 100 000 000

b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: See interventions as described in 'Section 0 – fifth modification' of the amended HIP.

Collective/pooled efforts and or consortia, which address specific contextual and response challenges and support improved synergies, efficiency, effectiveness, and quality could be considered.

c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023⁵. Actions will start from 01/01/2023.

d) The initial duration of the Action may be up to 12 months. 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.

e) Potential partners: all DG ECHO partners. Priority will be given to DG ECHO partners with a proven and tested implementation capacity.

f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Single Form Modification Requests of on-going actions ⁶. On localisation (sections 10.6 and 10.6.1 of the Single Form), partners are expected to specify whether they work with local implementing partners and describe this cooperation accordingly.

g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 24/10/2023¹⁰

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

Moldova allocation round 2

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 10 000 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: See interventions as described in ‘Section 0 – fifth modification’ of the amended HIP.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023 - Actions will start from 01/01/2023.
- d) The initial duration of the Action may be up to 12 months. 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.
- e) Potential partners: for this allocation, only DG ECHO partners with an ongoing contract in Moldova will be considered.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form⁹
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 24/10/2023¹⁰

South Caucasus allocation round 2

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 11 437 796 (including EUR 6 937 796 added in version 7 of the HIP)
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: See interventions as described in ‘Section 0 – fourth modification’ of the amended HIP.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023. Actions will start from 01/01/2023.
- 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)⁷. 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.

⁷ Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

- e) Potential partners⁸: All DG ECHO Partners for actions targeting assistance to the displaced people from Nagorno Karabakh. ICRC for actions targeting assistance inside Nagorno Karabakh.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions⁹.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 09/10/2023¹⁰.

Bosnia and Herzegovina allocation round 2

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 1 000 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: to support the most pressing humanitarian needs in the protection sectors.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023. Actions will start from 01/01/2023.
- 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)¹¹. 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 partners¹²: All DG ECHO Partners.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions¹³. Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 31/08/2023¹⁴.

UKRAINE allocation round 2

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 55 000 000

⁸ Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

⁹ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

¹² Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

¹³ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

¹⁴ 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.

b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: See interventions as described in ‘Section 0 – second modification’ of the amended HIP.

Collective/pooled efforts and or consortia, which address specific contextual and response challenges and support improved synergies, efficiency, effectiveness, and quality could be considered.

c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023¹⁵. Actions will start from 01/01/2023.

d) The initial duration of the Action may be up to 12 months. 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.

e) Potential partners: all DG ECHO partners.

f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Single Form Modification Requests of on-going actions ¹⁶. On localisation (sections 10.6 and 10.6.1 of the Single Form), partners are expected to specify whether they work with local implementing partners and describe this cooperation accordingly.

g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 29/05/2023.

Ukraine allocation round 1

a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 145 144 000

b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: all interventions as described in section 5.1 of the HIP.

c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023¹⁷. Actions will start from 01/01/2023.

d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness, and Education in Emergencies¹⁸. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework, can be submitted as modification requests for the ongoing action with a time extension of up to 24 months and a

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ The extremely volatile political and security context in Ukraine justifies short duration of EiE actions starting with an initial duration for the Action being up to 24 months.

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)¹⁹.

- e) Potential partners²⁰: All DG ECHO Partners.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Single Form Modifications requests of on-going actions²¹.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 15/02/2023.

Moldova allocation round 1

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 10 052 800
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: all interventions as described in section 5.1 of the HIP.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023. Actions will start from 01/01/2023.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness, and Education in Emergencies. 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)²². 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 partners²³: All DG ECHO Partners.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Single Form Modifications requests of on-going actions²⁴.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 15/02/2022.

Bosnia and Herzegovina allocation round 1

¹⁹ Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

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

²¹ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

²² Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

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

²⁴ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 1 630 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: to support the most pressing humanitarian needs in the protection sectors.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023. Actions will start from 01/01/2023.
- 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)²⁵. 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 partners²⁶: All DG ECHO Partners.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions²⁷.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 15/01/2023²⁸.

South Caucasus Region allocation round 1

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 1 170 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: address the most pressing humanitarian needs inside the Nagorno Karabakh region in the livelihoods and mine risk education sectors.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2023. Actions will start from 01/01/2023.
- 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)²⁹. 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.

²⁵ Additional guidance may be issued by DG ECHO in this respect, as appropriate.

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

²⁷ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

²⁸ 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.

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

- e) Potential partners³⁰: DG ECHO Partners with access to the Nagorno Karabakh region
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modification requests of on-going actions³¹

Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 20/01/2023³²

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 / logframe, output & outcome indicators, risks and challenges.
 - Feasibility, including security and access constraints.
 - Quality of the monitoring arrangements.
- 4) Coordination and relevant post-intervention elements
 - Extent to which the proposed intervention is to be implemented in coordination with other humanitarian actors and actions (including, where relevant, the use of single interoperable registries of beneficiaries).
 - Extent to which the proposed intervention contribute to resilience and sustainability.
- 5) Cost-effectiveness/efficiency/transparency

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

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

³² 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?³³

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.

In line with the DG ECHO guidance on localisation³⁴, and unless duly justified, DG ECHO will expect that proposals are based on partnerships with local actors, including through the participation and leadership of local and national actors in the project cycle, giving them space in the governance process, allocating an appropriate share of funding to local partners. In case of proposals of similar quality and focus, DG ECHO will give priority to proposals where at least 25% of DG ECHO's contribution will be spent on activities implemented by local and national actors. DG ECHO also expects partners to provide an adequate share of overhead cost to their local implementing partners. In addition, DG ECHO will prioritise proposals where the locally led action constitutes a central element and which are designed bottom up, and where DG ECHO partners provide relevant support to local partners' response (technical training, institutional support, peer learning).

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

³³ In accordance with the relevant section of the Single Form guidelines (section 10)

³⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/dg%20echo%20guidance%20note%20-%20promoting%20equitable%20partnerships%20with%20local%20responders%20in%20humanitarian%20settings.pdf>

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.

Transfer Modality: Modality choice should be informed by a needs-based response and risk analysis, incorporating joint and timely market analysis, operational and environmental analyses.

Cash

The use of cash should systematically be considered, across the variety of response mechanisms (anticipatory action, rapid response mechanisms, emergency responses, crisis modifiers, and shock-responsive social protection) funded by DG ECHO. All cash interventions should comply with DG ECHO's cash thematic policy, including the sector-specific considerations in Annex 3 of that document. In addition, programmes above EUR10M should comply with the large-scale cash guidance note³⁵.

DG ECHO promotes a common system and/or coordinated programming approaches to reduce fragmentation and avoid duplication and parallel ways of working. This includes better operational coordination, coordinated approaches to vulnerability-based targeting, data interoperability (which respects data protection requirements) to facilitate deduplication and referrals, a common payment mechanism, a common feedback mechanism and a common results framework. DG ECHO will systematically assess the cost-efficiency of different modalities, using the Total Cost to Transfer Ratio (TCTR), alongside the analysis of effectiveness.

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

The sectoral and multisectoral outcomes of cash programmes should be monitored against defined objectives in a consistent way. The monitoring of MPC interventions should comply with the cross-cutting and sector-specific Grand Bargain MPC outcome indicators. Multi-sectoral market analysis and monitoring should be ensured, in real time, to inform and adapt assistance, irrespective of the modality. In contexts of high inflation and currency depreciation, partners should put in place sound trigger mechanisms to adapt assistance based on market monitoring data, and design programmes from the outset to anticipate potential inflationary shocks.

DG ECHO maintains its commitment to providing cash, even in contexts of high inflation, provided that programming can be adequately adapted, in line with the Good Practice Review on cash in inflation/depreciation. Whenever duly justified, to cope with market

³⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/thematic_policy_document_no_3_cash_transfers_en.pdf

price volatility, partners are encouraged to include contingencies to adapt the transfer value, increase coverage, and/or change to an alternative modality to preserve household purchasing power capacity. DG ECHO expects Cash Working Groups, under the leadership of the inter-sector/inter-cluster, and in collaboration with relevant sectoral working groups, to provide leadership on the above.

In-kind assistance

Specific life-saving equipment, materials and Non-Food Items (NFI) may be distributed to the affected population and some public utilities and social institutions. In-kind distribution of such items is possible, particularly if markets are inaccessible or badly disrupted, or if this approach is more cost-effective, but it should be assessed against the advantages of providing greater choice to beneficiaries through cash grants. The selection of hardware, materials, equipment to be distributed should be informed by decisions on whether to support temporary or permanent facilities, system or dwellings and the extent of the most urgent repair and/or refurbishment needs. Consideration should be given to quality and safety, opportunities to strengthen local supply lines, markets and public administration where feasible. Distribution of NFI or other in-kind goods may be phased allowing adjustment for emerging needs, and to evaluate the usefulness of previously-distributed items and of the modality itself. Market analysis through the Emerging Market Mapping Analysis (EMMA) or other tools should inform planning, with attention paid to the quality, volume or speed of supply, and the capacity of and impacts on local markets and prices. All material support requires post-distribution monitoring to verify the use of the materials provided and the sectorial outputs and outcomes achieved.

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 Deal³⁶.

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 guidance on the operationalisation of the minimum environmental requirements and recommendations for EU-funded humanitarian aid operations³⁷.

DG ECHO aims at a full ambition on the greening of humanitarian assistance. Climate neutrality, climate resilience, circular economy, zero pollution and biodiversity protection are key pillars of the European Green Deal. Integrating environmental considerations in DG ECHO's humanitarian aid operations and those of its partners can contribute to addressing all of those key pillars. DG ECHO encourages the partners to, if possible, incorporate the elements of greening into their actions.

The increasing gravity of environmental challenges coupled with the dependency of affected populations on natural resources also call for a collective responsibility for

³⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

³⁷ <https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/download/referencedocumentfile/272>

humanitarian actors to reduce their programmes' environmental and carbon footprint. In terms of reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid, when possible, partners should be taking measures such as choosing materials with a lower carbon footprint, using clean energy solutions, avoiding deforestation, implementing a robust waste management system, greening the organisation's logistics or supply chain, or working more closely with local actors to decrease intercontinental transport. By pre-positioning of stocks, and increasing efficiency of operations, partners not only contribute to disaster preparedness but also can significantly reduce their carbon emissions, thereby contributing to the environmental priority.

Protection

All programme activities must ensure centrality of protection and apply protection sensitive targeting. Proposals must include a context-specific analysis of risks (threats, hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities) faced by contextually relevant gender, age, and disability groups and the response analysis should clearly demonstrate how the risks (threats, hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities) faced by contextually relevant gender, age, and disability groups informs the response strategy. Protection, gender, age and disability inclusion mainstreaming must be reflected across all results and activities and the logical framework must include an indicator at outcome level measuring protection mainstreaming.

Integrated approach

Integrated programming should be prioritised as outlined in DG ECHO's technical policies.

Winterization

Past humanitarian winterization efforts suggest few long-term impacts of winter assistance and a lack of overall resilience for households throughout the winter when conducted from individual sector perspective. This highlights the importance of an inter cluster approach in the winterization response. The strategy calls for a strong commitment on coordination to ensure an integrated winterization response allowing affected populations address their cross-cutting needs and vulnerabilities associated with the winter season. Further, it calls for coordination and advocacy with donors, government authorities both at provincial and national level, the various line ministries involved in the implementation of response as well as in definition of strategic priorities, fund allocation schemes impacting the winter period.

Risk Analysis

All responses/actions must be based on a sound risk analysis of the most vulnerable affected population.

Strengthened coordination

Coordination is a key element to ECHO funded intervention in Ukraine and Moldova. Partners should demonstrate coordination efforts that go beyond the simple participation to the cluster coordination system – i.e., strategic and operational coordination (in particular strengthening the inter-cluster coordination, ensuring synergies among interventions at field level and with other coordination structures). Partners should actively engage with the relevant local authorities and exchange views on issues of common interest with actors present in the field (e.g., EU, UN, etc.). In certain circumstances, coordination and

deconfliction with military actors might be necessary. This should be done in a way that does not endanger humanitarian actors or the humanitarian space, and without prejudice to the mandate and responsibilities of the actor concerned.

Whenever feasible, partners will be encouraged to use governmental agencies' capacity and or community-based organizations to deliver items to hard-to-reach locations, and/or in the most affected area when there is the capacity to provide an efficient and targeted response

Cost efficiency & effectiveness

Emphasis must be placed on cost efficiency and effectiveness, including reasonable overhead costs. Interventions should be informed by proper geo-thematic service mapping efforts which demonstrate how duplication of services and coverage will be avoided, while ensuring the largest possible reach to those most in need.

Gender and age, protection, people with disabilities

Mainstreaming of protection, gender, age and disability inclusion, based on a comprehensive gender/age sensitive risk analysis, will be a pre-condition for selection. Partners should ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities in proposed actions. For more information see the Thematic Policies Annex. Partners must ensure that **protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)** and child safeguarding policies and procedures established at institutional level are concretely translated at operational level.

The HIP Policy Annex should be consulted in parallel.

Visibility and Communication

Partners are expected to ensure full compliance with visibility and public communication requirements and acknowledge the funding role of the EU/ECHO, as set out in the applicable contractual arrangement.

Standard visibility is a contractual obligation for all DG ECHO-funded projects.

Partners must ensure EU visibility through the prominent display of the EU emblem with accompanying text on project sites, relief items and equipment, as specified in Section 12.1.A of the Single Form, as well as structured and proactive communication throughout the project duration with broad dissemination (press releases, social media, webpages, blogs, photos etc.), as specified in Section 12.1.B of the Single Form.

Partners must ensure EU visibility through the prominent display of the EU emblem with accompanying text on project sites, relief items and equipment, as specified in Section 12.1.A of the Single Form, as well as structured and proactive communication throughout the project duration with broad dissemination (press releases, social media, webpages, blogs, photos etc.), as specified in Section 12.1.B of the Single Form; However, partners with strong and ambitious communications ideas, aiming at reaching principally EU audiences, and with a demonstrated media/communications capacity are highly encouraged to apply for above-standard visibility. DG ECHO may provide additional funding should a partner wish to carry out such elaborate communication actions. Communication actions must always be designed to fit the target audiences, the key messages, the concrete project and the capacity of the partner. Relevant actions could include, for example, audio-visual productions, journalist-visits to project sites, poster-

campaigns, exhibitions or other types of events with an important outreach to the European public and media.

A separate communications plan, costed, with an estimated audience reach and a timeline, must be discussed with ECHO's Regional Information Officer (RIO) and then be submitted and approved by DG ECHO's Communication Unit (ECHO.01) prior to the signing of the contract. The plan must be inserted as an annex in the Single Form (under point 9.2). Partners will normally maintain contact to the Communication Unit and/or the relevant Regional Information Officer in the course of the implementation of the plan.

Above-standard visibility/communication is additional to standard visibility. Therefore, in all projects standard visibility, including on-site display of the DG ECHO visual identity will still need to be implemented based on the specifications in the Single Form.

Partnerships

Local civil society organisations (CSOs) and national non-governmental organisations (NNGOs) have had and continue to play an indispensable role in responding to the humanitarian needs in the region. Most DG ECHO funds have and will be translated into services and assistance provided primarily by local actors. As such, DG ECHO will continue to require its partners to establish strategic partnerships with local CSOs and NNGOs.

Since meaningful partnerships are built over time, continuation, or expansion of successful existing partnerships with national organisations will be privileged. Partnerships should strive to be in line with the Principles of Partnership.

In accordance with the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement and pursuant to the EU Financial Regulation, indirect costs shall not exceed 7% of direct eligible cost of the Action.

Localisation

DG ECHO welcomes partnership with local actors; however, a few principles should be applied: 1/ Duty of care is properly ensured through the provision of appropriate training and PPE. 2/ Fair costs coverage including support and transport costs 3/ Volunteer stipends to cover cost of living 4/ Support with capacity building 5/ Alignment on humanitarian principles and good practice (in particular, impartiality and neutrality, PSEA).

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).

Ukraine

Food Security & Basic Needs

As needs are multiple, food assistance shall be part of a basic need approach unless justified. Needs and future risks shall be identified through a combination of food security analysis and multi-disciplinary early warning systems (e.g., climate outlook, price trends, market functionality & access) to allow to prepare for and act early.

Key elements of the Food Security & Basic Needs programme include:

- Actions shall 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 (FCS), Coping Strategy Index (CSI)) should be provided under most suitable intervention modalities (e.g., cash, voucher, in-kind) through joint, impartial, evidence-based needs assessments and response analysis. Targeted support to tackle basic needs shall be based on the main outcome indicators (Food Consumption Score (FCS), Livelihood Coping Strategy (LCS))
- Targeting shall be based on food security & socio-economical needs & vulnerabilities of households in close coordination with the Food Security & Livelihood Cluster (FSLC) and Cash Working Group (CWG).
- Actions shall contribute to the effort of linking humanitarian cash assistance to shock responsive social protection (SRSP) with particular focus on promoting the transition of part of the FS and/or MPCA caseload (when and where appropriate) to the national SRSP. Close coordination with FSCL & CWG to contribute to the development of a comprehensive standardized and institutionalized referral pathways (including feedback loops) especially to livelihood, protection, nutrition and health services.
- Improved preparedness and emergency response capacity for shocks (based on learning and experience) feeding into the work of the FSCL & CWG on strengthening collective preparedness efforts.
- Improved interoperability between humanitarian actors to facilitate layering and referrals.
- A Crisis Modifier (CM) with clearly defined shocks and triggers.
- A separate budget line factoring in inflation as a potential shock, based on market analysis and recommendations coming from CWG (i.e., where inflation is expected to be above 10% in the coming year, the definition of the contingency amount needs to be standardised based on actual inflation trends and outlook).
- Contribution to and use of market monitoring data.

DG ECHO is committed to continue supporting unconditional and unrestricted cash transfers (Multipurpose Cash Assistance - MPCA), despite inflation in the prices of food and other key commodities, based on comprehensive analysis informing the transfer modality and especially the strategy to adapt the modality according 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 food assistance modality to inflation including analysis of

increasing adequacy vs coverage, considering how to continue to maintain cost-efficiency and food security outcomes. DG ECHO and like-willing donors aim to consolidate a MPCA programme of sufficient scale to address basic needs (including food security and related multi-faceted needs) of the most vulnerable people.

Shelter

Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFIs) are crucial to provide security, personal safety, and protection from the weather, and prevent ill health and disease. Shelter support also plays an essential role in building resilience. The response strategy will primarily look into the distribution of shelter acute emergency kits to non-displaced persons, returnees, and IDPs. The design of the kit will need to be adapted, particularly in the urban context. The assistance can cover the rehabilitation and basic refurbishment of buildings including WASH facilities, used by affected people for temporary accommodation. In close coordination with the Cash Working Group (CWG) the cash assistance for emergency NFI support, winterization activities, rental support and utilities support should also be considered whenever possible and justified. The assistance should consider basic shelter upgrades, sealing off kits or emergency shelter comprehensive package, including rehabilitation of shelter for winterization. Prefab modules or transitional shelters should not be considered under this emergency response, but it is highly recommended to facilitate the linkage with other actors, stakeholders, donors that can provide support for the recovery process, including within EU institutions. A coordination of the response planned with the shelter and NFI Cluster is expected to ensure complementarity of responses and to facilitate a smooth continuum among immediate needs, and future planning for recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. For any winterisation activity, ECHO will pay particularly attention to the timeliness of the response. Winterization needs and capacities to respond to surge needs remain of particular concern given the geographical isolation of some hard-to-reach settlements and the overall economic vulnerabilities living close to the contact line on both sides.

Health

All health-related interventions should be addressed in a comprehensive methodology and in close coordination, complementarity and collaboration with oblast health and administrative authorities, the health cluster and related sub-clusters. Importantly, the health response must be adapted to every oblast due to their different capacity and needs. Attention needs to be given especially to elderlies, people/children living with disabilities, women, children, adolescents, and survivors of sexual violence. DG ECHO Partners must demonstrate their technical capacity and actively engage in sub-national health cluster activities.

DG ECHO will prioritize projects based on the following aspects:

- **Scale up of integrated primary health care (PHC) services, with a link to protection, in remote and liberated areas and continue supporting specific technical support for PHC:** chronic/infectious diseases; mental health; continuum of care for reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health; clinical management of gender-based violence (GBV); and rehabilitation/trauma care. Support PHC's facilities with medical material and equipment that they can function to deliver basic PHC services needed. Health services must be through either comprehensive mobile clinics, home visits or supporting health centres directly, delivering a spectrum of diagnostic, health services, medication, and

referral services. Interventions are all in coordination with local health and administrative authorities and the health cluster (HC), must be demonstrated.

- **Priority is given to comprehensive mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Mental Health (MH)** activities must be based on a solid assessment, should follow the IASC reference group on MHPSS and ensuring a proper referral pathway in place between the different level of care, specifically psychosocial support (PSS) and MH. Integration of MH into PHC is preferred and requires good community awareness and mental health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) trainings³⁸. Only projects demonstrating a sound concept with professional, trained staff, capacity building and essential country eligible psychotropics as well a sound monitoring with relevant outcome measures, will be considered. Coordination with the MHPSS, education and protection sub-cluster is essential and must be demonstrated.
- **Rehabilitation and Trauma Care** needs are growing; therefore, interventions covering assistive devices and equipment, prothesis, training multi-disciplinary teams and ensure follow up procedures at PHC levels, triggering down to community level, will be prioritized. Interventions must follow the rehabilitation pathway under the order of the Ministry of Health (MoH). Coordination with the Rehab and Trauma and protection sub-cluster is essential and must be demonstrated.
- **Medical Supply chain, including vaccines, needs to continue where needed.** DG ECHO intervention will focus only on large scale supply chain providers having capacity to assure functionality in health facilities. This could include establishing and supporting a local pharmacy network, in coordination with the MoH and WHO, enabling them to provide essential quality medication at local remote areas. Medicine and medical supplies should be contextualized and matching the acute needs (medical kits should ensure appropriate language of prescription).
- **Coordination / Health Cluster activities.**
- **Conditional cash for medication** covering chronic disease patients will be considered unless beneficiaries receiving MPCA. Transfer value needs and targeting to be discussed with the health cluster and Cash Working Group (CWG).
- **Potential support for the establishment of national emergency medical teams (EMT) in cooperation with the Emergency Service Department, MoH.** DG ECHO could consider financing the emergency trainings and emergency supplies/equipment through a twinning approach, pre-assuming a sound concept with a roadmap including timeline and deliverables which leads to WHO-EMT certification. A consortium with a lead agency would be preferred.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Significant damage of WASH infrastructure, equipment and services (water, sewage, solid waste) hampers access to water and sanitation of millions of people in Ukraine. The security situation has a significant impact on the maintenance and reparation of the damaged piped water network and the water treatment plants.

³⁸ <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/259161/WHO-MSD-MER-17.6-eng.pdf>

The response strategy will look into crucial restoration of WASH services in places with damaged water supply systems and fill gaps to disrupted or collapsed WASH services in schools and health facilities. DG ECHO will support and advocate for more sustainable WASH solutions implemented in close coordination with local providers and authorities. An integrated programming approach, based on the linkages between WASH, Health, Shelter and Protection is expected to ensure a coherent response. It is crucial to coordinate with the WASH Cluster to ensure responses focused on effectiveness and efficiency.

A smooth continuum among immediate needs, service delivery, and future planning is highly recommended to be explored from the early stage of the actions.

The priority activities include: emergency repair/rehabilitation of water systems damaged during the war, to reactivate access to safe water in sufficient quantity; provision of materials and equipment for repairs, operation and maintenance of existing basic WASH services; provision of water treatment chemicals distribution systems. In areas where systems cannot be quickly repaired, water trucking and or bottled water distribution can be considered as a last resort, with a defined exit strategy. Support in Hygiene Promotion and Emergency Sanitation in critical environment; solid waste management should also be considered in critical areas; distribution of hygiene kits if key items not available in the market otherwise should be covered under the CASH modality and in close coordination with the Cash Working Group (CWG); emergency WASH intervention in institutions and collective centres; hygiene promotion will only be considered for demonstrated emergency needs.

Protection

DG ECHO will prioritize protection interventions aimed at providing life-saving assistance to victims of violence, newly accessible populations as well as individuals who cannot/are not willing to flee (e.g. people living in institutions). DG ECHO will prioritize the direct provision of assistance when authorities are overwhelmed and therefore not able to cater for the needs of population: partners are expected to assess the existing capacities in the areas of intervention.

Promotion of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) at various levels through direct engagement and evidence-based humanitarian advocacy will also be considered for funding.

While some protection services can only be provided in more stable conditions (e.g. case management), a basic protection service package should nevertheless be provided at the first point of contact with individuals fleeing an active conflict:

- Tracking: though this is an extremely difficult task to accomplish if people are still on the move, it is important that, if possible, people (numbers as a minimum) are tracked to ensure that they remain visible along displacement routes.
- Services to deal with family separation: basic registration of children is necessary to ensure that tracing can take place or contacts with families are established at a later stage were deemed in the best interest of the child. During registration, it is important to also ensure a basic best interest assessment and temporary caregivers for the children. At the same time, it's important to ensure a flow of communication. . This includes ensuring that people have the possibility to stay in touch with relatives that are in other displacement sites.
- Psychological First Aid (PFA): PFA is key to ensure that families and individuals are able to absorb the basic information that is given to them, while also helping

them cope with the basic tasks that will be required until they reach a more stable location.

- Provision of information to individuals/families: information on basic services but also displacement routes and specific protection issues (for example screening procedures, etc.). Individuals should not be overwhelmed with information, but information should be provided based on need and linked to the specific vulnerabilities of individuals/families.
- Identification of people with specific needs: basic identification of needs must take place as soon as possible. Identification will focus on vulnerabilities that are more visible. However, they should be complemented by quick observations and dialogue with families/individuals to ensure that non-visible vulnerabilities are addressed to the maximum extent possible. The main aim of identifying people with specific needs is to ensure adequate referral to services.
- Referrals and accompaniment: Once individuals are identified, partners will need to accompany cases, to the referral agency. Considering the fluidity of most of these situations, accompaniment is urged to ensure that the people with most severe vulnerabilities actually make it to the organization they are being referred to.

In Ukraine, displacement is not a straight-line continuum but might involve stops along the way (i.e. transit centers) or even pendular movements. Protection services during these “transit” moments would focus on provision of PFA, information (displacement routes/services), referral of urgent cases and registration of separation, and referrals of other vulnerable cases.

In displacement settings, 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 timely include emerging risks. Protection monitoring activities should always be complemented by direct assistance and effective referrals to relevant services/assistance.
- Direct provision of static and mobile protection assistance:
 - Addressing Psychosocial (PSS) needs is a priority for DG ECHO: all partners must ensure that, as a minimum, PFA is mainstreamed in their humanitarian actions. All proposals with a PSS component must 1) specify the level of service provision (level 1 – 3 IASC MHPSS pyramid) as well as the profile and capacities of staff 2) ensure availability of timely and effective referrals to specialized mental health services (level 4 IASC MHPSS pyramid) and 3) monitor the improvement of beneficiaries’ psychosocial well-being.
 - Case Management: partners are expected to develop/update localised multi-sector service mapping (ensuring quality of assistance is taken into account) as well as referral mechanisms. Priority will be given to actions focusing on ‘high risk’ cases. Technical supervision of case worker must be included.
 - In line with DG ECHO Cash Policy, the provision of cash to achieve protection outcomes will be considered only when i) the causal link between cash transfers

and protection outcomes is clearly outlined; ii) cash is part of a broader protection response (accompaniment, legal assistance and case management).

- Legal counselling and legal assistance, with a priority given to identity documents and documentation needed to access social benefit;
- Information Dissemination, with a focus on available services and other life-saving information.

Education in Emergencies

Priority interventions are to support access to distance learning and provision of materials/supplies to students, teachers; light rehabilitation and temporary learning spaces; psycho-social support and life-saving messages (mine risk education) to children, school staff. Activities should be aligned with the Minister of Education and Science (MOES) and Education Cluster frameworks, as appropriate. Information systems, data/evidence for overall response planning, coordination may be supported, if justified.

Emergency livelihood

DG ECHO may consider small-scale initiatives aiming to provide Emergency Livelihood Support. Livelihood components in proposals shall consider the following priorities:

- Purpose: To contribute to self-sufficiency of beneficiaries in a timeframe of 12 months.
- Targeting: Support at household level for a limited number of vulnerable households with well identified existing livelihood capacities/skills and well-defined selection criteria. It is encouraged to undertake livelihood profiles of IDPs and hosting communities to inform the modalities of relevant support.
- Range of activities considered: It may include different sectors of activity relevant in urban and rural contexts. DG ECHO prioritizes a cash+ approach informed by a comprehensive market analysis, that combines cash transfers with productive assets, inputs, and/or technical training to enhance the livelihoods and productive capacities of poor and vulnerable households, including agricultural-based livelihoods through MPCA to address immediate and multi sectoral needs and then emergency agricultural inputs, through short cycle vegetable seeds and livestock fodder.
- Partners are strongly encouraged to include a detailed learning and documentation component, test different approaches (e.g., volume of assistance, beneficiaries' livelihood profiles, productive contexts, etc.) and document the impact of the intervention with an aim of future upscaling of successful approaches and transfer cases towards development operations.

Disaster Preparedness

Mainstreamed Disaster Preparedness:

Russia's war on Ukraine is significantly increasing the level of risk for local populations overall. Both natural, human induced, technological, and industrial hazards are compounded by insecurity in many conflict-affected areas. It is therefore essential that humanitarian actors, alongside the relevant national actors, actively engage in contingency planning to adequately prepare for scenario such as large population movements, severe disruption of services, influx of trauma patients, outbreaks, etc. To foster Disaster Preparedness, DG ECHO will support anticipatory, flexible and rapid response mechanisms in Ukraine.

In areas at risk (front line communities, newly liberated areas, IDP hosting areas), partners with a demonstrated expertise in rapid response are strongly encouraged to introduce Crisis Modifiers (CM) to be able to quickly mobilize resources from on-going actions and respond to any new emerging shocks occurring in their area of operations. CM should be triggered based on pre-agreed thresholds to provide initial lifesaving multisector response in the aftermath of a rapid onset crisis. Partners are invited to dedicate a specific result and budget to the CM, under the DRR/DP sector.

If relevant, endorsed by the humanitarian leadership in country and designed in collaboration with national authorities, DG ECHO could support the set-up of a Rapid Response Mechanism to provide a timely initial lifesaving assistance to the affected populations in areas at risk. The mechanism should target newly displaced families in priority. The minimum response package provided should focus on the most pressing and lifesaving needs and cover at least one month of assistance. Partners should develop a detailed plan considering prepositioning of stocks, surge staff, triggers and sectors of intervention. Effective referral pathways for the continuation of the assistance should be in place and regularly monitored. Regular post-monitoring should inform the use, adequacy and efficacy of the assistance provided. The issues of scale, triggers and modality of assistance will be carefully considered to maximize cost-effectiveness.

Both rapid and flexible mechanisms should be based on a multi-risk analysis, with the development of worst and most likely scenarios, and allow for an initial response to be activated within 72 hours.

Support to operations

Support to a solid and responsive logistics system, notably in terms of storage and transport (last mile delivery), in order to address the challenging environment for humanitarian staff and goods is needed. Support Services including the support of dedicated common services to facilitate access and provision of safety & security support to humanitarian agencies. Therefore, DG ECHO will consider supporting operations ensuring the security for humanitarian staff as well as an adequate logistic common services, including safe transport and storage of relief items, provided their cost efficiency and benefit in increasing safety, effectiveness and timeliness of the response is demonstrated.

Nexus

DG ECHO's partners are encouraged to apply a nexus approach in the formulation, analysis and programming of the actions, to facilitate the transition to longer-term, predictable and adequate essential and social services. Without compromising humanitarian principles, partners are expected to consider if it is appropriate to deliver humanitarian assistance complementing and/or aligning to functional national systems. Social services such as health, education and social care in the one hand, and the linkages of humanitarian cash transfers to national social assistance programmes are amongst the priorities.

Partners are also expected to assess if it is possible to use the humanitarian response as a window of opportunity to trigger further investments by development actors, especially in the western geographical regions not affected by an active conflict. Thus, sharing best-practices and enhancing the dialogue and advocacy with development donors, as a way of

increasing shared responsibility among humanitarian and development actors for crisis-affected population.

Republic of Moldova (refugee response)

First-line Emergency response (FLER)

Considering the high number of Ukrainian refugees and third country nationals who still enter/transit the Republic of Moldova, DG ECHO will support the provision of emergency assistance at Border Crossing Points and Transit Points. Priority will be given to:

- Access to resting facilities, emergency water, sanitation and hygiene at Border Crossing Points and Transit Points (BCPs/TPs)
- Access to food/hot meals at BCPs/TPs
- Access to information and counselling at BCPs/TPs
- Provision of transportation to reception centres/refugee accommodation centres

Basic Needs

Since a proportion of the refugee population has the intention to stay in the Republic of Moldova in the medium term, DG ECHO will support provision of access to basic needs through the preferred modality of Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA). Priority will be given to the following actions:

- Provision of monthly MPCA to refugees staying in the Republic of Moldova to fulfil their basic needs. The Transfer Value (TV) will need to be in line with the TV agreed between the Cash Working Group (CWG) and the Government of Moldova. Providing cash assistance to families hosting those displaced people in their homes might be considered.
- A targeting based on food security & socio-economical needs & vulnerabilities of households in close coordination with the CWG.
- Close coordination with the CWG is needed also to contribute to the development of comprehensive standardized and institutionalized referral pathways (including feedback loops) especially to livelihood, protection, nutrition and health services.
- Improved preparedness and emergency response capacity for shocks (based on learning and experience) feeding into the work of the CWG on strengthening collective preparedness efforts.
- Improved interoperability between humanitarian actors to facilitate layering and referrals.
- A Crisis Modifier (CM) with clearly defined shocks and triggers.
- A separate budget line factoring in inflation as a potential shock, based on market analysis and recommendations coming from CWG (i.e., where inflation is expected to be above 10% in the coming year, the definition of the contingency amount needs to be standardised based on actual inflation trends and outlook).
- Contribution to and use of market monitoring data.

A gradual transition from emergency cash assistance towards integration of the refugee caseload into the national social safety net is encouraged. Actions shall contribute to the effort of linking humanitarian cash assistance to shock responsive social protection (SRSP) with particular focus on promoting the transition of part of the caseload (when and where appropriate) to the national SRSP.

DG ECHO is committed to continue supporting unconditional & unrestricted cash transfers (Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)) despite inflation of food and other key commodities based on comprehensive analysis informing the transfer modality and especially the strategy to adapt the modality according to contextual changes. Specific considerations include 1) quality, breadth, and frequency of multi-sectoral market analysis; and 2) analysis of impact of inflation on different modalities. DG ECHO and like-willing donors aim to consolidate a MPCA programme of sufficient scale to address basic needs (including food security and related multi-faceted needs) of the most vulnerable people.

Protection

Considering the refugee movement largely consists of women, children, elderly and people with special needs, protection will be at the centre of the DG ECHO response in Moldova. The protection strategy will consist of two pillars: protection for people-on-the-move and protection for people living within local host communities. Priority will be given to:

- Protection monitoring at Border Crossing Points and Transit Points (BCPs/TPs) to identify victims of violence, people at risk and people with special needs.
- Provision of protection services and referral to health services at BCPs/TPs, including psychological first aid, provision of safe spaces, provision of information and counselling, and referral to other service providers.
- Protection monitoring of refugees living in local host communities, community engagement and prevention measures
- Provision of protection services, including PSS, case management and referral to other service providers.

Health

Ukrainian refugees have been granted access to the Moldovan healthcare system for emergency healthcare. However, provision of healthcare to this additional caseload, as well as provision of non-emergency healthcare, puts a significant strain on the healthcare system and available resources. DG ECHO will support access to emergency and non-emergency healthcare for refugees and provide complementary sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and mental health services, where needed. Priority will be given to:

- Emergency healthcare through mobile teams at Border Crossing Points/Transit Points and referral to healthcare facilities and services if needed.
- Support to the existing healthcare system to provide services to the additional caseload through capacity-building, provision of medical supplies and equipment and support to coverage of medical care for refugees under the national health insurance system.

Education in Emergencies

Ukrainian refugee children have been granted access to formal education in Moldova. At the same time, many connect online to the Ukrainian education system. In this way, DG

ECHO will support access to formal education for refugee children with priority to continue online Ukrainian education at non-formal education centres providing materials, supervision, support to online education; and enrol into formal education in Moldova through various means (e.g., language support). Education relevance and outcomes, including learning, if/as applicable, must be demonstrated. Information on available education options, and alignment with Ministry of Education and Education Working Group frameworks, as appropriate, is to be ensured.

Nexus

DG ECHO's partners should apply a nexus approach in the formulation, analysis and programming of the actions, to facilitate the transition to longer-term, predictable and adequate essential and social services. Without compromising humanitarian principles, partners are expected to deliver humanitarian assistance complementing and/or aligning to functional national programmes and system. Social services such as health, education and social care in the one hand, and the linkages of humanitarian cash transfers to national social assistance programmes are amongst the priorities.

Partners are also expected to assess if it is possible to use the humanitarian response as a window of opportunity to trigger further investments by development actors to contribute to the assistance of the refugees and host communities at medium and longer-term, in order to promote social cohesion in one of the European countries with highest poverty rate, exacerbated by the dramatic increase of food and energy in-country. Thus, sharing best-practices and enhancing the dialogue and advocacy with development donors, as a way of increasing shared responsibility among humanitarian and development institutions for crisis-affected population.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Health

In outreach areas, there is a need for continuation of provision of a first aid services, together with a robust referral system in order to ensure access to health services to those in need. There is also a significant need for MHPSS among the persons of concern (PoCs), but very little services are available through the national system. MHPSS activities, specifically Psychological First Aid (PFA), should be considered as part of a comprehensive approach to healthcare delivery. Accordingly, DG ECHO will consider funding specific health interventions out of TRCs areas, including (non-exhaustive list): provision of First Aid assistances (wound dressing, bandaging, light immobilization, Psychological First Aid (PFA – MHPSS) support) to PoCs and provision of referral services as needed.

Shelter & Settlement

DG ECHO might consider funding specific emergency interventions amongst the following (non-exhaustive list):

- S&S winterization activities, based on a sound targeting methodology, focusing on the most vulnerable individuals and/or groups;
- Provision of alternative / protective shelter for extremely vulnerable individuals.

Protection

Provision of specialized protection services for vulnerable individuals or groups at risk due to specific discrimination or risk factors with particular focus on child protection (CP), GBV and Human Rights/Refugee Law violations.

Protection assistance should target people located in TRCs, as well as those stranded outside the reception centres.

ECHO will consider funding specific protection interventions amongst the following (non-exhaustive list):

- Continuation and strengthening of protection information dissemination and protection information management and monitoring. Life-saving information will be prioritized; moreover, messages should be built upon actual needs of persons of concerns and should be harmonized among actors on the ground.
- Provision of protection assistance, including case management, to victims of violence (including but not limited to GBV survivors, UAM and UASC) as well as extremely vulnerable individuals. This requires further strengthening of referral mechanisms in order to ensure that the affected population facing protection risks and violations can access appropriate services in cases where a DG ECHO partner is not positioned to provide direct services due to various reasons.
- Multi-layered MHPSS; this includes referrals to secondary health care for PoCs with severe mental disorders whenever their needs exceed the capacities of humanitarian actors. As per IASC guidelines on MHPSS, activities and programming should be integrated as far as possible. The proliferation of standalone services, such as those dealing only with specific violence (e.g. GBV), or specific group of population or only with people with a specific diagnosis, such as posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), can create a highly fragmented care system.
- Advocacy on protection issues.
- Capacity building on humanitarian protection (standards and guidelines).

Nexus

Given the protracted crisis, the evolution of the context and the continuous efforts (and relevant challenges) to develop transitional/NEXUS paths, humanitarian aid is still essential to support a certain type of interventions and specific sectors. DG ECHO's priorities in 2023 continue to focus on the provision of timely, adequate and appropriate humanitarian assistance to PoCs living in and out of temporary centres, based on vulnerability assessment. Nonetheless, implementation of the mid-term transitional strategy developed in 2021 has already started with the focus on activities implemented inside TRCs. In this regard, there is a planned transition of provision of protection services (MHPSS included) inside TRCs from DG ECHO funding mechanism to IPA in 2024. In addition, in agreement with EU Del Sarajevo, if needed, ECHO's Regional office's thematic experts for Protection/Gender will be actively engaged in support of development of effective transitional protection processes and streamlining of provision of protection services inside and outside of TRCs.

South Caucasus Region

DG ECHO interventions will only focus inside the Nagorno Karabakh territories. Main priorities areas will be:

Basic Needs/Multipurpose cash assistance

Since the majority of the displaced persons remain present in the urban centres of Armenia and Azerbaijan, with accessible and functional markets (with the notable exception of Nagorno-Karabakh), cash-based assistance would be the best modality of support, provided such assistance is implemented in line with DG ECHO guidelines and policies. Multi-purpose cash assistance is primarily meant to cover food, shelter (small repairs of damaged property), WASH, basic needs and Non-Food Items (including winterization items, if needed). In case multipurpose cash or possibly vouchers as the second best option would not be possible to implement in timely manner, the assistance needed has to be provided in-kind.

Within Nagorno-Karabakh, other modalities than cash assistance may be foreseen to support the most vulnerable conflict-affected population.

Health

Essential health services need to be ensured at the time when the health system has been disrupted by war. Assistance will cover primary and secondary health care facilities with essential rehabilitation/repair of health structures, provision of small medical equipment, supplies, medications, human resources surge capacity and ensuring uninterrupted access to water. Mental health support should also be considered, since the stress factor is believed to be very substantial among the population, which has lived under duress for decades.

Protection

The hostilities and displacement have caused high levels of anxiety, psychological trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder among the population – especially in locations that have suffered from shelling. Many conflict-affected people are living through a state of profound shock, which goes beyond the displacement itself. A large number of displaced and other affected people (women, children, elderly) may require targeted protection, including child protection and psycho-social support (PSS) assistance, in both Armenia and Azerbaijan, including in Nagorno-Karabakh. Support to displaced persons on legal rights: housing, property, land issues; social payment, documentation, status regulation will be considered.

Activities related to humanitarian mine action should be implemented in line with the humanitarian principles and can include humanitarian demining in populated areas affected by the conflict, mine risk education and awareness campaigns, and mine action capacity building support. It will be key to support the affected communities, while keeping them safe through informed and targeted risk education activities, with a specific focus on youth. Reducing the threat and impact of landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW), including cluster munition, will create an enabling environment for socio-economic recovery and development and peace and security for people living in and around Nagorno-Karabakh.

Livelihoods

Humanitarian food assistance can also be used to protect and strengthen the livelihoods of a crisis-affected population, to prevent or reverse negative coping mechanisms such as the sale of productive assets, or the accumulation of debts. Agriculture has been severely disrupted (75% of arable land and 50% of livestock was lost); market prices have increased and hampered the living conditions of the conflict-affected population.

Assistance might cover activities supporting local business and support to re-establish and strengthen agricultural production and the reinforcement or protection of agricultural and non-agricultural livelihoods (e.g. providing veterinary services for vulnerable livestock herds, or improving agricultural crop storage. Vocational trainings and skill adaptation measures to match local market demands as well as support for restoring livelihoods, accompanied by small-scale cash or in-kind support to local entrepreneurs and support for micro-economic initiatives, etc.) will be covered as well. Cash for work schemes aiming at rubble clearance or small repairs of damaged infrastructure might be considered too.

Education in Emergencies (EiE)

EiE responses may include non-formal education (NFE) and formal education to prevent and reduce disruptions in education for crisis-affected school-aged children, and to support authorities to resume education services during or after a crisis.

Assistance might cover cash subsidies to vulnerable families, support to education in areas affected by the conflict, repairs of schools and assessment of future needs, school material provision.