

TECHNICAL ANNEX

SOUTHERN AFRICA INDIAN OCEAN¹

FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

The provisions of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2024/01000 and the General Conditions of the Agreement with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

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

1. CONTACTS

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¹ This HIP covers the following countries in the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region (SAIO): Angola, Botswana, Comoros Islands, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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2. FINANCIAL INFO

Indicative Allocation³: **EUR 33 500 000** of which an indicative amount of **EUR 5 000 000** for Education in Emergencies.

Indicative breakdown per Actions as per Worldwide Decision (in euros)⁴:

Country(ies)	Action (a) Human-induced crises and natural hazards	Action (b) Initial emergency response/small- scale/epidemics	Action (c) Disaster Preparedness	Actions (d) to (f) Transport / Complement- ary activities	TOTAL
Madagascar	6 500 000				6 500 000
Mozambique	16 500 000				16 500 000
Regional including Zimbabwe	3 500 000		7 000 000		10 500 000
TOTAL	26 500 000		7 000 000		33 500 000

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

³ 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.

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

it to be carried out. In such a case, justification must be provided in the Single Form (section 10.4)⁵.

b) Financial support to third parties (implementing partners)

Pursuant to Art. 204 Financial Regulation, for the implementation of actions under direct management 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. In such cases, justification must be provided in the Single Form (section 10.6) based on the following grounds: a limited number of non-profit NGOs have the capacity, skills or expertise required; there are only a limited number of organisations in the country of operation, or in the region(s) where the action takes place; in a confederation, family or network context, the partner would rely on other members of the confederation, family or network to ensure geographical coverage, while minimising costs and avoiding duplication.

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

⁵ Single form guidelines: <https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/ngo/action-proposal/fill-in-the-single-form>

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 multi-annual Programmatic Partnerships⁶

Funding under this HIP may be used to finance actions implemented in the framework of multi-annual strategies (Programmatic Partnerships), as and when provided for in the HIP. Programmatic Partnerships can be at country, multi-country or regional level. If multi-country/regional, the proposal should specify the breakdown between the different country allocation. In this perspective, DG ECHO will renew its engagement with UNOCHA in the framework of the Programmatic Partnership Agreement started in 2022 for a maximum amount of EUR 500 000. To be also noted that the IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership action ‘Accelerating local action in humanitarian and health crises’ is currently being implemented in Eswatini, Madagascar, Zambia, although not financially covered by the SAIO HIP.

New possibilities for Programmatic Partnership (PP) can be explored under Pillar 3, sector 6, focusing on Disaster Preparedness (DP) at regional level. DG ECHO would consider a Programmatic Partnership approach with a multiannual perspective for two years or more specifically for DP in urban preparedness. The geographical scope would be the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region. Partners/Consortia of partners would need to have a strong expertise in the specific sectors taking into account previous and ongoing actions funded by DG ECHO.

- f) Regional and multi-country actions (non-Programmatic Partnerships)

Regional/multi-country actions can be supported under this HIP (and where relevant in conjunction with other HIPs⁷), 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.

⁶ More information can be found in the ‘Guidance to Partners – DG ECHO Programmatic partnerships 2024 <https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/programmatic-partnership/programmatic-partnership>

⁷ 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.

g) Multi-year funding actions⁸

HIPs may be used for multi-year funding actions, which should have a duration of minimum 24 months and the full budget is committed upfront. Specific policy areas for multi-year funding may be mentioned in the respective HIP. Multi-year funding actions aim at generating additional efficiency gains and improve design and delivery of humanitarian assistance. The submitted proposals should demonstrate these gains, which should be monitored during the implementation of the action and will have to be reported in the final reports of the action.

It is possible to request multi-year funding in the context of a Programmatic Partnership to be concluded with DG ECHO. In this situation, see section 3.e.

⁸ For more information - See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding available on the DG ECHO Website (DGEcho WebSite (dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu) Additional information can be found here: Grand Bargain Quality funding commitments: Grand Bargain Caucus on Quality Funding - Outcome Document - final - 11Jul22.pdf (interagencystandingcommittee.org) and Grand Bargain definitions: Multi-year and flexible funding - Definitions Guidance Summary - Narrative Section January 2020.pdf (interagencystandingcommittee.org)

4. ADMINISTRATIVE INFO

Allocation round 1

- a) Indicative amount: up to **EUR 26 500 000**.
- b) This assessment round will allocate the funding for **Madagascar, Mozambique and Zimbabwe** in view of reinforcing 2023 DG ECHO's response under **Pillar 1 / Emergency Response** and under **Pillar 2 / Education in Emergencies** for Mozambique only.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2024.⁹¹⁰
- d) The initial duration for the Action will be of at least 24 months for Education in Emergencies actions, unless there is a needs- or context-based justification for a shorter duration; and may be up to 24 months or more¹¹ in other sectors provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner.¹² Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under a previous Humanitarian Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests to extend the overall duration to a maximum of 48 months. Actions that are extended further to modification requests can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multi-annual strategies provided for by the HIP.
- e) Potential partners¹³: All DG ECHO Partners.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications Requests of ongoing actions.¹⁴
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: **by 15/01/2024**.

⁹ See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding available on the DG ECHO Website (DGEcho WebSite (dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu).)

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Maximum duration of an action is 48 months.

¹² See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding (November 2022) available on the DG ECHO Website ([DGEcho WebSite \(dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu\)](https://dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu))

¹³ Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

¹⁴ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

Allocation round 2

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 7 000 000.
- b) This assessment round will exclusively allocate the funding for **Pillar 3 / Disaster Preparedness** for Madagascar, Mozambique and regional projects.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2024.¹⁵
- d) The initial duration for the Action will be of at least 24 months. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations under a previous Humanitarian Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests to extend the overall duration to a maximum of 48 months. Actions that are extended further to modification requests can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multi-annual strategies provided for by the HIP.
- e) Potential partners: All DG ECHO Partners.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications Requests of ongoing actions.¹⁶
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: **by 05/02/2024**.¹⁷

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)? How have the local partners been included in the needs assessment efforts? Have other recent and comprehensive needs assessments been used?
 - Has the proposed intervention been coordinated with other humanitarian actors and local and national actors?

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 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.

- 2) Capacity and expertise (including in support to the localisation approach)
 - 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 and outcome indicators, risks, and challenges.
 - Feasibility, including security and access constraints.
 - Quality of the monitoring arrangements.
 - Quality of the proposed localisation approach, and measures taken to minimise the transfer of risks.
- 4) Coordination and relevant post-intervention elements
 - Extent to which the proposed intervention is building on ongoing local response and in coordination with other humanitarian actors and actions (including, where relevant, the use of single interoperable registries of beneficiaries).
 - Extent to which the proposed intervention contributes to resilience and sustainability, including the sustainability of locally driven responses.
- 5) Cost-effectiveness/efficiency/transparency
 - 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, including the information on percentage of funding to be implemented by local actors and the share of overhead costs transferred to them?¹⁸

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.

In case of a Programmatic Partnership, the proposed action shall be assessed under the same criteria as listed above. However, a Programmatic Partnership proposal must also demonstrate a clear added value (e.g. efficiency gains; longer term outcomes, scaling up of innovative approaches; contribution to a specific policy; etc.). See dedicated guidance to partners for more details.

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

¹⁸ In accordance with the relevant section of the Single Form guidelines (section10)
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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).

All awards made using EU Funds must respect the Conditionality Measures¹⁹ issued under any Council Implementing Decision adopted in accordance with Article 6 of EU Regulation 2020/2092 on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget²⁰ (“Conditionality Decision”).

The Commission hereby notifies applicants under this HIP/TA of the following Conditionality Decision (valid at the date of publication of this HIP/TA):

- **Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506 of 15 December 2022 on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary²¹.**

This Conditionality Decision, in particular its Article 2.2, prohibits legal commitments under direct and indirect management with any public interest trust established by Hungarian Act IX of 2021²², including those entities listed in Annex I to Hungarian Act IX of 2021²³ and other affiliated entities maintained by them (“Concerned Entities”). The Commission will further notify when the above-mentioned Conditionality Measures are lifted.

4.1.2. Specific operational guidelines and operational assessment criteria:

This section outlines the specific operational guidelines that DG ECHO partners need to consider 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.

¹⁹ Conditionality Measures against a Concerned Entity, may, for example, include, amongst others, the requirement to: suspend payments or the implementation of the legal commitment to/with the Concerned Entity; and/or terminate the legal commitment with the Concerned Entity; and/or prohibit entering into new legal commitments with the Concerned Entity. Conditionality Decisions and Measures issued under Council Implementing Decisions may impact the implementation of grants, contributions and procurement contracts awarded, as the Commission is required to ensure the application of these Conditionality Decisions and Measures in the implementation of the EU budget via both direct and indirect management.

²⁰ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget OJ L 433I , 22.12.2020, p. 1–10

²¹ OJ L 325, 20.12.2022, p. 94–109

²² Act IX of 2021 on public interest trust foundations with a public service mission (entry into force 01/01/2023).

²³ Available (in Hungarian) at: <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2021-9-00-00>

In line with the DG ECHO **guidance on localisation**²⁴, 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. DG ECHO partners are encouraged to provide relevant support to local partners' response through technical training, peer learning, capacity strengthening and institutional support, including safety- and security-related resources and equipment to mitigate risks.

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 (Strategic Humanitarian Supply Chain – SSC). 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.

The majority of organisations' environmental footprint comes from their logistics/supply chains, and as such these offer an opportunity to minimise environmental impacts²⁵. Preference should be given to procurement, distribution, and use of environmentally sustainable items, reducing and optimising secondary and tertiary packaging, avoiding procuring single-use items, and favouring products with greater durability and high recycled content.

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, particular attention should be paid to sustainability of the interventions and, when possible, linkages to longer-term livelihood solutions.

Cash activities

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

²⁴<https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/dg%20echo%20guidance%20note%20-%20promoting%20equitable%20partnerships%20with%20local%20responders%20in%20humanitarian%20settings.pdf>

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.

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

DG ECHO promotes, wherever appropriate, a single multipurpose cash (MPC) payment to meet recurrent basic needs, through a common payment mechanism, and timely referral pathways to meet specific multi-sectoral outcomes based on a solid analysis. DG ECHO expects that the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and Transfer Values (TV) are defined under the coordination of the Cash Working Group for harmonised response. Cash assistance should be risk informed and targeted based on socio-economic vulnerability, and the protection concerns of individuals and groups. Partners should invest in preparedness measures for cash assistance, as a key enabler of timely response e.g., through anticipatory action or rapid response mechanisms. Entry points for linking humanitarian assistance and social protection at different levels (policy/governance, strategic/institutional level and resources, programme design, and implementation/delivery) should systematically be assessed.

The sectoral and multisectoral outcomes of cash programmes should be monitored against defined objectives in a consistent way, using the relevant DG ECHO KOIs and KRIs, which are aligned with the Grand Bargain multi-purpose cash (MPC) outcome indicators.

- At Specific Objective level:
 - Livelihood Coping Strategy “% of HH without crisis and emergency Livelihood Coping Strategies (LCS)” - Target 80% using the WFP methodology outlined in its Essential Needs Assessment guidance (see p20).
 - Percentage of households who report being able to meet their basic needs as they define and prioritise them” measured using the standardised scale (all/most/half/some)
- Given that large percentages of MPC assistance are used to cover food needs, the systematic use of the Food Consumption Score (FCS) is recommended.

Environmental considerations

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 DG ECHO's Guidance on the

operationalisation of the Minimum Environmental Requirements and Recommendations for EU-funded humanitarian aid operations²⁶.

The minimum environmental requirements should be applied through a ‘mainstreaming’ approach with environmental impacts mitigated across sectors, projects and programmes with the aim to consider the environment holistically when designing and implementing actions. The requirements will apply to all sectors with special attention on mitigating the negative environmental impacts in protracted, chronic situations.

The HIP Policy Annex should be consulted in parallel.

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

(2) Flexibility embedded into the actions

Whenever relevant, partners should introduce flexibility such as crisis modifiers 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 time required to

²⁶ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/climate-change-and-environment_en

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)

DG ECHO can decide on the activation of the EHRC should operational and logistical gaps emerge. The use of the EHRC support is described in the relevant EHRC Humanitarian Implementation Plan and its Technical Annex.

Under this HIP, DG ECHO can propose directly to one or more partners to receive and be in charge of the distribution of emergency relief items or hosting an EHRC humanitarian expertise. The choice of the partner will be taken by DG ECHO based on a set of criteria, such as presence in the affected area, and experience. The EHRC inputs will be part of the partner's response action and will, where relevant, be included in existing grant agreements.

(4) Disaster Preparedness actions

During the last years, an increasing number of countries and regions have been implementing targeted Disaster Preparedness actions, stretching the limited resources assigned to Disaster Preparedness to the maximum. In order to adapt to this increased demand in Disaster Preparedness, while ensuring an efficient use of the limited funds, and with the recommendation for actions to have an **initial duration of 24 months**, starting **from 2024, the Disaster Preparedness budget line will be allocated on a biennial basis**. This means that a given country/region will receive Disaster Preparedness funding every two years, unless exceptional circumstances would require otherwise. Two-year allocations will allow more predictability and sustainability of the DP strategy in the relevant countries/regions, with expected higher impact and effectiveness of its objectives.

Environmental degradation exacerbates the impact of hazards and lessens the overall resilience capacity of communities. All trainings and tools under the DP framework should therefore **integrate environmental degradation aspects** (relevant for these specific contexts and needs), especially the ones that directly aggravate disaster risk aspects (e.g., deforestation of slopes leading to an increased landslide hazard, removal of mangroves increasing the damage caused by storm surges, solid waste accumulation in drainage systems increasing flooding risks). All the **risk assessments** should **include an environmental screening and risk-mitigation component** to help identify the most vulnerable areas and outline possible opportunities to tackle specific environmental issues that aggravate disasters impact and in turn improve disaster risk preparedness and contingency planning. Sensitisation campaigns and outreach activities led by local community organisations can help raise awareness about the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable resource management in improving disaster preparedness.

DG ECHO partners should also systematically adopt a displacement lens in their humanitarian action, in order to integrate displacement more effectively into risk management, including preparedness. Preparedness for displacement can help strengthen the capacity of national and local actors to effectively manage displacement situations, by assisting and protecting those who are displaced, and by linking to interventions supporting national and local actors in their efforts to find durable solutions to end displacement. Preparedness can also involve anticipatory action whereby people who are at risk of being displaced are moved out of harm before the event takes place and are provided with assistance to cover their basic needs. Displacement is an increasingly important

humanitarian and development challenge, both in situations of conflict and fragility and in relation to climate change and environmental degradation.

(5) Consortia

Partners operating in consortia are expected to define very clearly at proposal stage the 3Ws (who-does-what-and-where), and clearly demarcate each consortia's agencies' roles and responsibilities in geo-targeting and respective sectors of interventions. Furthermore, partners are expected to highlight all the complementarities with other humanitarian actions operating in the same target districts, including those implemented by the very same agencies but under other humanitarian donors' funding.

4.1.2.2. Country-Specific Priorities

PILLAR 1: Emergency Response

The main **objective** of **this Pillar** is to provide needs-based, rapid and life-saving humanitarian aid to populations affected by climate and human induced disasters. There are **four priorities** under this pillar as described below.

Priority 1: Northern Mozambique (Cabo Delgado crisis) – Multi-sectoral and life-saving humanitarian assistance

This priority aims at providing life-saving humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected populations including internally displaced populations, host communities and returnees. Following the logic of the basic needs approach, actions will be supported in Cabo Delgado Province with priority for the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance to underserved districts severely affected by the ongoing conflict such as Nangade, Macomia, Muidumbe, Meluco, Mueda, Quissanga and Moçimboa da Praia. Other districts in Cabo Delgado may be considered depending on the evolution of the armed violence/conflict during the HIP period.

The following sectors and types of action will be prioritised:

Emergency/Rapid Response Mechanisms (ERMs/RRMs) – DG ECHO aims to reinforce and expand the reach of Emergency Response Mechanisms in place in Cabo Delgado and ensure life-saving humanitarian assistance is delivered to conflict-affected communities – IDPs, returnees and host communities – located in underserved Cabo Delgado districts still severely affected by the ongoing armed violence. DG ECHO will also look at second line/static responses that have the necessary flexibility to adapt to changes in the context that could come in complementarity of RRM activities if it was to happen in the same districts. Timeliness of response is a key element for effectiveness of ERM/RRM. Partners should adopt indicators to measure the time required to deliver assistance. Partners should conduct sound comprehensive needs assessments, including protection risk analysis prior to any response, as well as integrated protection activities. When needs assessments, risk analysis and emergency response are conducted, partners are expected to systematically share information with respective clusters, other partners operating in the districts as well as

OCHA for effective coordination. Adequate indicators on these coordination features should be embedded in the actions.

Humanitarian food assistance – Actions should aim to address the food consumption gap of IDPs, returnees and host population in areas affected by the crisis, with a priority for underserved districts in Cabo Delgado still severely affected by the ongoing armed violence/conflict. As needs are multiple, food insecurity shall be analysed as part of the **basic needs approach**, and food assistance shall be provided within an integrated multi-sectoral approach (NUT, NFIs, WASH, Shelter, Protection, EiE, etc.) and, to the extent possible, preferably delivered through **unconditional²⁷ Multi-Purpose Cash Transfer (MPCT)** with common delivery mechanism accompanied by **multi-sectoral effective referral pathways**. Partners must justify the **frequency and adequacy** of the response regardless of the adopted modality (**cash/in-kind/vouchers**), **transfer amounts/values** provided, in coordination with other actors, and in accordance with Food Security Cluster and Cash Working Group recommendations. One-off assistance should be avoided as much as possible.

The priority will be given to actions focusing on the most at-risk area of Cabo Delgado – and the afore-mentioned underserved districts – with a large coverage in terms of areas and number of beneficiaries. Particular attention will be given to the total cost transfer ratio²⁸. A vulnerability-based assessment/targeting process should be at the base of each proposal. Targeting should be launched as early on as possible into any new displacement crisis to ensure most efficient use of resources based on actual needs and avoid aid dependence. Attention should be given to energy needs for cooking, to avoid unintended deforestation.

Nutrition – actions supporting availability and access to the treatment of acute malnutrition (under 5 and PLW's²⁹), timely identification and referral of malnutrition cases through existing programmes (i.e., Integrated Mobile Brigades) and strengthening of nutrition commodity supply chain will be prioritised when targeting districts currently underserved. The treatment of acute malnutrition and any related medical complications should be integrated in existing health systems and must be provided to the beneficiaries free of charge. Support to caregivers should be provided to facilitate referrals, if needed. The implementation of innovative approaches (i.e., MUAC only admission, reduced dosage) are strongly encouraged when increasing efficiency and impact of nutrition programme demonstrated as safe for beneficiaries and acceptable by national institutions.

Stockpiling of emergency stocks and related logistics preparedness – DG ECHO encourages the prepositioning of adequate emergency stocks to be used for multi-sectoral response to districts affected by armed violence/conflict. Emergency prepositioning is a key element for early response and needs to be included, framed and justified within a

²⁷ Any conditionality should be fully justified and adapted to the vulnerabilities of the targeted group (for example, women with young children) or in consideration of the agricultural season.

²⁸ Net transfer to beneficiaries over the total cost of the action.

²⁹ Pregnant and lactating women

comprehensive preparedness and response strategy enabling a rapid mobilisation. No action should focus only on prepositioning, but this component should be integrated within other activities in line with the Pillar and Priorities identified for the Cabo Delgado crisis. When embedded into an action, it should be subject of a specific result. Prepositioned stocks (in the limit of their availability) should be made available to all DG ECHO partners, including the ERM/RRM actions as well as 2nd line/static emergency response actions targeting priority districts and prioritising those with higher capacity of reaching beneficiaries the fastest. Partners should have a demonstrated solid warehouse stock management system in place and other logistical capacities (transport, communication). An advocacy component will be embedded to prepare the ground for an exit strategy seeking for Disaster Management Authorities' takeover under long-term strategies. See also priority 4.

Protection – Humanitarian protection interventions aim to prevent, reduce, mitigate and respond to the risks and consequences of violence, coercion, deliberate deprivation and abuse to individuals, groups and communities in the context of humanitarian crises. Protection mainstreaming and integrated protection approaches for actions under this priority are encouraged to maximise impact.

Protection activities should restore a protective environment for civilians affected by conflict and internal displacement, with a particular focus on child protection, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), child recruitment, and mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS). Upstream monitoring of protection incidents will be a key activity to track trends. Furthermore, to support a quality response/service, protection case management and referral activities need to be factored into humanitarian interventions. Data collection of protection concerns must lead to humanitarian protection advocacy towards HCT, authorities and institutions for an improved protective environment for affected populations and increased respect of IHL. All actors and their respective interventions under this priority need to ensure a protective environment to the survivors of conflict. To this extent, partners are required to have in place **sound Complaint and Feedback Mechanisms** (known, accessible, anonymous, preferably managed by a third party, user friendly, etc.).

Under this priority, partners should demonstrate their capacity to deploy **adequate and qualified staff** to respond to complex emergencies and demonstrate having clear and up-to-date **security** policies/procedures to operate in priority districts affected by the ongoing conflict where armed forces, non-state armed groups and humanitarian actors co-exist. Partners should also factor in their actions transport cost services (e.g., UNHAS fees) and other last-mile delivery costs.

Humanitarian coordination – information and preparedness management is instrumental, including **civil-military coordination**, in view of the multiplicity of armed actors in the context. In this perspective, DG ECHO will continue its engagement with UNOCHA in the framework of the Partnership Agreement started in 2022. Partners are expected to be **active in humanitarian coordination** platforms and clusters at national and/or at area level to maximise impact, coordination and avoid duplications. When feasible, referral pathways between the different actions/components of a project funded by DG ECHO or by other donors including development donors are encouraged. Such referral pathways should be

established at the initial stages of implementation and regularly reviewed by the concerned parties throughout implementation.

When possible, actions should promote meaningful nexus opportunities, taking into account development funding from EU Delegation, EU Member States, other development donors as well as from the private sector in Cabo Delgado.

Priority 2: Madagascar (Great South and Southeast) Basic Needs approach with a strong integration of protection

Geographical areas: the most affected areas (IPC 3 and above and high Global Acute Malnutrition) in the Great South and Southeast. DG ECHO's emergency funding should focus on an integrated multi-sectoral response through **multi-purpose cash transfers and emergency health/nutrition actions (including relevant referral systems) with a strong protection integration** (targeting especially children, pregnant and lactating mothers).

For **nutrition**, DG ECHO will prioritise the actions supporting the access of quality treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition in areas affected by high prevalence of undernutrition and where national capacities are not sufficient. This also includes activities allowing the timely identification and referral of malnutrition cases, provision of life-saving primary health care and referral services for severe patients if not already available, and provision of nutrition commodities. The optimisation of allocation of resources through surge mechanisms and integrated interventions are strongly encouraged.

In recognition of the longer-term nature of the determinants of child wasting in Madagascar, all actions are to be developed within the context of an ongoing strategy to strengthen **health systems** to improve coverage and quality of delivering essential actions for optimal nutrition, to prevent malnutrition and provide prevention services, treatment and care when needed.

Integrated and qualitative protection programming will be supported to reduce the risk and exposure of the affected population and respond adequately to protection needs (including response to shocks): MHPSS, child protection (CP), GBV (via protection monitoring, fostering community structures and protection networks, referral pathways/case management when accessible).

It is also essential to strengthen the coordination at local level with the right level of expertise to allow concerted advocacy efforts and optimisation of expertise and resources.

Stand-alone protection programming is not recommended.

Complementary short-term emergency livelihood activities could be considered for funding, however standalone short-term emergency livelihood activities can only be considered when the food consumption gaps are already covered. These activities should be unconditional and aim at (i) supporting short-term strategies for self-reliance and livelihood protection, focusing on the most vulnerable and (ii) contributing to building longer-term resilience along a longer-term strategy. Particular attention should be paid to avoid directly or indirectly incentivising environmentally harmful livelihood activities.

It is important that multi-purpose cash transfers and humanitarian protection are seen within the broader **social protection** landscape in Madagascar and contribute to enhancing the comprehensiveness, coverage and adequacy of social protection systems and programmes. Attention should notably be paid to delivery platforms and infrastructure (mobile apps, management information systems and databases – including integrated beneficiary registries, social registries and monitoring).

Priority 3: Strengthened cash response and coordination in Zimbabwe

Building on the learnings of the various DG ECHO-funded cash programming actions in urban areas and taking into account the range of cash transfer programmes including the government's supported cash transfer programmes, this priority aims at ensuring that the rapidly changing environment in Zimbabwe, along with seasonality changes, is continuously assessed to inform ongoing response analysis.

In order to support cash coordination and harmonisation of response, small-scale integrated multi-purpose cash and protection assistance for the most vulnerable affected by food insecurity in urban areas will be considered.

Coordination and alignment in terms of targeting, essential needs assessment, Minimum Expenditure Basket and transfer values are critical to the project design. Special attention should also be paid to the provision of technical assistance to governments for the establishment and digitalisation of Urban Social Registries, linked to their main Management Information Systems (MIS) of Social Protection building on urban population registration and targeting. Multi-purpose cash transfers and humanitarian protection should be seen within the broader social protection landscape in Zimbabwe and contribute to enhancing the comprehensiveness, coverage and adequacy of social protection systems and programmes.

Mainstreaming of protection principles is essential in the current urban context in Zimbabwe. This implies taking into account safety and dignity, avoiding causing harm and ensuring meaningful access, accountability and participation and empowerment of vulnerable communities as from the needs assessment to systematic and thorough monitoring during the project implementation.

Support to the Cash Working Group (CWG) could play a lead role to address key elements of this priority.

Priority 4: Emergency prepositioning in SAIO

To respond to unforeseen disasters or the deterioration of existing crises, DG ECHO encourages the set-up, prepositioning and usage of strategically located stocks of ready-to-use emergency items and of stand-by capacities for multi-sectoral response.

This priority is set for the SAIO region with particular attention to countries at higher risk: Mozambique, Madagascar, Malawi and Zimbabwe. DG ECHO encourages the strengthening of regional stockpiling/prepositioning capacity at the regional level, with stocks that will be made available to all humanitarian partners to the extent possible while prioritising those with higher capacity of reaching beneficiaries the fastest.

Based on experience of past cyclonic seasons, the prepositioning of stocks is instrumental to timely support first response interventions in the countries, provided such stocks are accessible to all partners, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) or Early Action Plans (EAPs) structuring clearly sequenced interventions integrated into existing national contingency planning processes are in place and have been tested.

The emergency kits prepositioned should be principally designed in function of recurrent floods and cyclones events and the need to provide immediate relief operation.

The actions should also consider cash transfer modalities.

Emergency prepositioning should be framed and justified within a comprehensive preparedness and response strategy, with adequate trigger mechanisms and emergency thresholds pre-identified, enabling a rapid mobilisation and made available to other DG ECHO partners.

An advocacy component must be embedded to prepare the ground for an exit strategy seeking for Authorities' and other donors to take over under longer-term strategies.

Adequate logistical capacity must be demonstrated. Any action funded under this priority will coordinate with the Regional Anticipatory Action Working Group supported by DG ECHO.

PILLAR 2: Education in Emergencies (EiE)

This pillar will focus on Mozambique for children affected by the conflict in Cabo Delgado Province.

This priority aims to ensure education restoration and continuation in the context of humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict in areas affected by violence and displacement in Cabo Delgado and, specifically, in underserved districts with significant humanitarian caseload like Nangade, Macomia, Muidumbe, Meluco, Mueda, Quissanga and Moçimboa da Praia. Besides these priority districts, other districts in Cabo Delgado may be considered based on clear and sound justification pertaining to the identification of unmapped humanitarian caseloads (e.g., unreached communities or sites with significant proportion of IDP children out-of-school; educational facilities with high proportions of IDP learners; etc).

All EiE actions should have a **minimum duration of 24 months** and **target at least 50 % girls** unless there is a needs- or context-based justification for a shorter duration or different targeting.

EiE must integrate a child protection component within the intervention. Actions should primarily target out-of-school children and those at risk of education disruption, forcibly displaced children within their host communities, and **children with disabilities** in line with the Commission staff working document “Education in Emergencies in EU-funded Humanitarian Aid Operations”. Gender age marker must be included to actively promote access of girls to primary education.

Actions must take into account ongoing actions funded by DG ECHO and other donors related to education in order to ensure nexus opportunities, complementarities and to avoid duplications.

Priority will be given to activities that include, as relevant:

- The establishment of **child protective environments and safe learning spaces in districts affected by the ongoing conflict**. Integrated EiE and child protection programming including specific targeting of children presenting protection, gender and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) needs such as disabled children, unaccompanied and separated children, recently released from armed groups, children exposed to GBV, neglected children, stress/trauma, **is a priority to restore a protective environment**. To ensure a response to protection cases, referral towards protection and **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)** services (health and legal, CP/PSS services – if existing) **and/or social and emotional learning (SEL)** have to be added to ensure child protection case will be adequately supported.
- **Protection and EiE** evidence-based assessments, analysing the impact of the crisis on the formal education system response capacities and the immediate education and protection, including psychosocial support needs for children. When/where possible, reinforced linkages between emergency and development programmes in relation to EiE and child protection are encouraged to ensure a continuum of assistance and long-term sustainability and resilience.
- The provision of **conflict-sensitive education** in line with the INEE principles and guidelines³⁰ including understanding the context in which the education programme takes place, analysing how conflict affects education and how education might contribute to conflict or mitigate it, and acting to minimise negative impacts and maximise positive impacts of education policies and programming on conflict. In addition, monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children, as well as strengthening the prevention of and response – including school enrolment – to children in armed forces and armed groups (CAAFAG) are relevant to this intervention framework.
- To better **protect schools** against military use of their facilities and children/teachers, DG ECHO is looking to support advocacy work/strategies to promote **IHL compliance** through the promotion of the **safe school declaration**. Projects may include awareness-raising, mapping of protection issues, support for reporting and referral mechanisms, and in some cases, direct engagement with groups to negotiate the protection of education in their areas of operation.
- The identification and provision of appropriate **accelerated education programmes, or catch-up and remedial classes** that should be assessed as per the definitions, tools and guidance developed by Accelerated Education Working Group, and based on context-specific children education needs analysis, especially in the post-COVID context and school re-opening process.³¹

³⁰ <https://inee.org/collections/inee-conflict-sensitive-education-pack>

³¹ “When it comes to Non formal Education programmes such as AEPs or catch-up, partners are strongly encouraged to use the definitions, tools and guidance developed by the AEWG (Accelerated Education Working Group): <https://inee.org/collections/accelerated-education>”

- **Child safeguarding systems** as a minimum requirement in the preparation, planning and implementation of EiE and Child Protection interventions. Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) complaint mechanisms must be set up to ensure that children will be protected from harm (including GBV in schools) following a code of conduct and child safeguarding policies. Information and communication system for rapid feedback on PSEA and violence.

- **Emergency stock related to EiE and protection for IDPs** (i.e. include shelters, Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS), Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), other emergency shelter equipment, First Aid and WASH kits, life vests, ‘School in Box’, CFS kits, hygiene kit for girls, flash lights, thermal blankets, etc.) should be strategically planned in anticipation of EiE service delivery in hard-to-reach areas and districts affected by active conflict or other shocks. Attention should be given to adequate management of waste stemming from these activities and to the environmental impact of the interventions in general. Environmental activities (e.g., extracurricular activities) should be considered in the day-to-day running of schools.

- Enhanced hosting **school capacity** in case of major displacement to absorb new learners. The support may include the adaptation of infrastructures (classrooms), the purchase of learning and teaching material, and work towards an adequate teacher/pupil ratio). The provision of Temporary Learning Spaces and Child Friendly Spaces are key elements to restore a protective environment for (structured) psychosocial activities.

- Activities like small-scale **rehabilitation, relocation and retrofitting** of schools to ensure protection of children and minimum disruption of education that should be part of a structured process with a strategic vision, in line with government rules and, to the extent possible replicable. The rehabilitated schools should be integrated in community contingency plans as potential shelters during evacuations when this option represents the only alternative. Priority for upgrade should be given to communities where there is no other existing building that could be used as shelter. In order not to disrupt access to education, partners are rather encouraged to plan for Temporary Learning Spaces during the rehabilitation of existing structures.

DG ECHO encourages partners to refer and adopt building norms and models as developed in the region by UNHABITAT.

All proposals must demonstrate sound coordination and integration with the respective clusters as well as with other emergency response actions under Pillar 1, thus prioritising interventions in districts severely affected by the ongoing crisis and targeted by the emergency multi-sectoral response. Furthermore, where/when possible, the synergies/complementarities between humanitarian and development assistance are critical to help build the long-term resilience of the education systems and social protection services.

PILLAR 3: Disaster Preparedness (DP)

In line with DG ECHO regional Disaster Preparedness strategy described in the HIP document and considering ongoing funded actions across the region, priority has been given to the following **targeted countries: Madagascar and Mozambique**. This pillar also includes **regional and multi-country** interventions.

The IFRC pilot Programmatic Partnership action (PP) ‘Accelerating local action in humanitarian and health crises’ is implemented in Eswatini, Madagascar and Zambia. Complementarities between potential DP actions in those countries and the IFRC pilot Programmatic Partnership will have to be sought.

General considerations for Pillar III for all the countries:

Standalone prepositioning interventions will not be supported. When applicable, prepositioning should be a component of a wider DP strategy/project.

DP budget line should not be used for humanitarian response.

Proposed DP approaches should address prevailing hazards and risks – including slow-onset, secondary and compounding risks such as conflicts, displacement, epidemics etc, and clearly demonstrate the linkage based on the context.

All interventions should as much as possible aim at integrating anticipatory/early actions, based on forecasts from recognised authorities/sources and backed up by a comprehensive risk analysis (that do not only predominantly focus on hazard but take into perspective the analysis of vulnerability, capacity and exposure to risks) and preferably conducted in collaboration with other stakeholders.

Anticipatory action and enhanced predictability of response can only be achieved if local preparedness and response capacities are in place; therefore, preparedness actions must strengthen first responders’ capacity to act as locally and as early as possible.

A system-wide approach is encouraged to ensure linkages and simultaneous capacity-building at all levels, actions only proposing community based DRR activities will not be funded.

In line with DG ECHO’s commitment to expand support for shock-responsive social safety nets, the feasibility of linkages with, and technical support to national social protection and disaster management systems is to be explored systematically by partners during risk assessments, and response planning to be ensured accordingly.

Multi Hazard Early Warnings Systems (MHEWS) play a crucial role in promoting DP: actions proposing EWS strengthening should be succinct, on the interlinkage of the four components of EWS.

Coordination with development actors to promote, advocate for the institutionalisation of DP strategies notably around disaster risk financing including adaptive/shock-responsive social protection systems that could be activated by pre agreed, well defined risk triggers will be crucial.

Environment and disasters are inherently linked, therefore integrating environmental considerations into the disaster risk reduction and preparedness frameworks and response tools – at local and regional level – should be considered to improve their efficacy with the aim to minimising hazards and increase the resilience of the local communities. Environmental degradation affects natural processes, increases vulnerability, lessens overall resilience, and challenges traditional coping strategies. The DP trainings, workshops and other tools should therefore integrate environmental screenings, risk-mitigation exercises and/or environmental aspects relevant for a specific context and needs, especially the ones that directly aggravate disaster risk aspects (e.g., deforestation of slopes leading to an

increased landslide hazard, removal of mangroves increasing the damage caused by storm surges, solid waste accumulation in drainage systems increasing flooding risks, etc.).

Travel budget for two or three people (including the DP Action responsible and one from the NDMA) should be included in the budget to participate in the annual DP DG ECHO and partner workshop in South Africa (or other country in the SAIO region).

Contribution to the Capacity4dev Platform of DG ECHO ‘Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean funded by DG ECHO’ is encouraged.³²

Priority 1: Madagascar – Strengthening Emergency Disaster Preparedness in the Great South

Considering the multiple risks vulnerable population in the Great South is facing (including the ongoing locust invasion and the El Niño threat), this priority aims at strengthening emergency disaster preparedness in the Great South.

This priority will focus on securing sustained support for the Early Warning System, currently initiated by a consortium of UN agencies, led by UNDP. The DG ECHO-funded initiative will promote the widespread adoption of a much-needed comprehensive impact-based forecasting mechanism, also envisaged within forthcoming longer-term actions funded by EU Delegations. In the framework of anticipatory action, and the logic of the regional road map supported by the Regional Anticipatory Action Working Group supported by DG ECHO, DG ECHO will consider supporting:

- **expanding the reach and scope of initial experiences of anticipatory action for drought in the Great South of Madagascar.** Scaling up involves physical expansion (harmonising and replicating approaches to new areas and addressing additional hazards), greater social reach (increasing coverage in number or scope of people targeted), extending political engagement and institutional capacity and deepening the conceptual framework around AA in country.
- linked to the previous point, **developing a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral framework for Anticipatory Action for the Great South**, based on sound risk analyses and multi-hazard approaches, including all relevant stakeholders at national and subnational level (Malagasy government, international humanitarian organisations, national NGOs, RC movement etc) to guide a common approach to the timing of decisions and actions, the types of forecasts, risk information, financing instruments and delivery mechanisms used.
- projects can explore the **shock sensitivity/responsiveness of the social protection system** as an important emergency response and AA delivery channel.
- **a critical analysis of the Disaster Risk Financing landscape** in Madagascar to fund anticipatory action including the expansion of social protection programmes pre- and post-disaster should be included in the proposal, as well as a **systematic and coordinated generation of evidence** supporting Anticipatory Action (AA) and Shock-Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) and notably in terms of cost-

³² Available at this link: <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/disaster-risk-reduction-drr-in-the-southern-africa-and-indian-ocean-funded-by-echo>

effectiveness and impact evaluations through strategic M&E, evidence generation and sharing.

Priority 2: Mozambique – Anticipatory Action and Cash Readiness

Considering the high exposure and vulnerabilities of Mozambique to extreme and recurrent natural hazards in Mozambique as well as the current forecasts on El Niño impact, the main geographic focus for this priority is countrywide.

However, situation assessments and disaster data analysis could point to the identification of specific provinces/districts particularly vulnerable to different hazards.

Building on past and ongoing DG ECHO investments in Disaster Preparedness in Mozambique, this priority aims at strengthening further the preparedness capacities of key local stakeholders/early responders, including national/provincial/district Disaster Management Authorities, police, local NGOs, national Red Cross societies and other civil society members, to assist populations in facing disasters induced by both human and natural hazards. Interventions are expected to be articulated with the National Disaster Management Authorities, aligned to DG ECHO Disaster Preparedness policy and complementary to other Disaster Preparedness actions in Mozambique.

DG ECHO will consider supporting actions that contribute to:

- strengthening national preparedness capacities, building on previous actions/investments, and in particular to support the **development and operationalisation of a national multi-sectoral/multi-stakeholder Anticipatory Action (AA) strategy** suitable to respond to different hazards (slow and sudden onset, including epidemics and disease outbreaks). This would include:
 - expanding risk database and risk knowledge in Mozambique;
 - enhancing detection, monitoring, analysis and forecasting of hazards and their impact;
 - development or reinforcement of hazard-specific national Early Action Protocols (EAPs) inclusive of critical thresholds based on historical data analysis, and impact-based forecast and modelling capacities/mechanisms;
 - reinforcement of Early Warning Systems (EWS) and development/adoption of effective warning dissemination/communication strategies;
 - mapping of impact-based forecasting interventions in Mozambique, as well as analysis of the disaster risk financing landscape in country to feed advocacy efforts toward increased funding for AA;
 - within the framework of a national Disaster Preparedness and AA strategy, reinforcement of preparedness and response capacities including – within the limits set by DG ECHO Disaster Preparedness policy – prepositioning of critical emergency supplies. In the case of procurement and prepositioning of emergency supplies, actions are expected to include cost-sharing arrangements by government and other donors.
- linked to the previous programmatic point on Anticipatory Action, **reinforcing cash readiness** to allow for rapid and early/anticipated cash responses. This would include:

- exploration of programmatic and operational linkages with the national Social Protection systems in place, and in particular with the Shock-Sensitive ones (SSSP) as important emergency response and Anticipatory Action delivery channels. An in-depth analysis of the shock sensitive/responsive social protection systems in place in Mozambique, of their features/limitations, and the identification of blockages/obstacles could support their enhancement and expansion.
- development of an effective advocacy strategy targeting all relevant stakeholders in Mozambique, from the government to donors, aiming at the reinforcement/expansion and increased funding of AA and SSSP systems.
- strengthening of cash-policy and coordination in Mozambique, and improved alignment to government policies. Advocacy for policy-change and/or policy development in case of identified gaps or limitations in government policies.
- strengthening of the National and Area (Cabo Delgado) Cash Working Groups to ensure effective harmonisation among cash players in Mozambique, and better alignment on the use of humanitarian cash to government structures and policies.
- promotion of the cash agenda in Mozambique, and empowerment of local actors in early/anticipated cash response.

Priority 3: Regional Urban Preparedness

The 2021 WFP innovative preparedness action in urban setting (focusing on Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique and Zimbabwe) is coming to an end in 2023. It has generated important learnings, notably in terms of specific urban shocks and vulnerability that the humanitarian community needs to take better into account.

Building on those learnings, DG ECHO will consider supporting actions that contribute to:

- continue supporting improved assessment and analysis of selected urban contexts and vulnerabilities taking into account the physical and social differences between and within urban areas and the different risks and opportunities they present.
- further understanding of mobility and its operational implications: daily and seasonal patterns of mobility to, from and within the city are important to understand and carefully considered in preparedness and response planning.
- careful institutional analysis, mapping of key stakeholders and co-ordination to strengthen engagement with the diversity of actors that form the complex urban system.
- overcoming the tension between the political considerations that can heavily affect social protection agenda (such as providing cash handouts as a way of building political support) and the lifesaving demands of emergency interventions.
- further invest into urban emergency cash response preparedness along a SRSP approach linking them to anticipatory action approaches, i.e., defining households' targeting in urban settings, data collection, access to services, cash delivery methods, use of cash and networks – informal, government, private sector, setting up accountability mechanisms, etc.

DG ECHO would like to support programmatic partnerships and would consider such an approach within the SAIO HIP if partner organisations – NGOs, UN agencies and the Red Cross/Crescent family – demonstrate the strategic and/or innovative character of the action and the gains being achieved through such a longer-term partnership. A programmatic partnership on regional urban preparedness can be implemented through multi-year funding (initial funding allocation for 24 months or more) or through a staged approach, where funding is allocated annually.

Regional actions will have to include a dedicated budget and activity to facilitate the organisation of 2024 regional ECHO and Partners Workshop, under the supervision of the ECHO Country team and in line with previous workshops organised in 2019 and 2022.