

**TECHNICAL ANNEX**  
**SOUTH, EAST, SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**  
**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**

Operational Unit in charge	DG ECHO / D4
Contact persons at HQ	Contact persons in the field
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## 2. FINANCIAL INFO

Indicative Allocation<sup>1</sup>: EUR 56 300 000 of which an indicative amount of EUR 5 700 000 for Education in Emergencies.

### Programmatic Partnerships:

Programmatic Partnerships have been launched since 2020 with a limited number of partners. A maximum amount of EUR 300 000 will be dedicated to ongoing Programmatic Partnerships in 2024. New Programmatic Partnerships could be funded under this HIP<sup>2</sup>.

Indicative breakdown per Actions as per Worldwide Decision (in euro)<sup>3</sup>:

Countries	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 / Complementary activities	TOTAL
Bangladesh	19 500 000		7 000 000		<b>26 500 000</b>
Myanmar	19 200 000				<b>19 200 000</b>
Regional Refugee Crisis	2 000 000				<b>2 000 000</b>
Philippines	2 600 000				<b>2 600 000</b>
Nepal DP			4 000 000		<b>4 000 000</b>
Regional DP			1 700 000 <sup>4</sup>		<b>1 700 000</b>
Programmatic Partnerships	300 000 <sup>5</sup>				<b>300 000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43 600 000</b>		<b>12 700 000</b>		<b>56 300 000</b>

## 3. PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT

### a) Co-financing:

Under the EU Financial Regulation, grants must involve co-financing; as a result, the resources necessary to carry out the action must not be provided entirely by the grant. An action may only be financed in full by the grant 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)<sup>6</sup>.

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

<sup>2</sup> More information can be found in the 'Guidance to Partners – DG ECHO Programmatic partnerships 2024' <https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/programmatic-partnership/programmatic-partnership>

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

<sup>4</sup> It could possibly include some bridge funding for a few countries (Myanmar and Thailand), as well as new initiatives in the ASEAN region and in other countries under the remit of this HIP.

<sup>5</sup> OCHA PPP reserved for Myanmar.

<sup>6</sup> Single form guidelines: <https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/ngo/action-proposal/fill-in-the-single-form>

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 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 Partnerships<sup>7</sup>

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

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<sup>7</sup> See the dedicated guidance on Programmatic Partnerships.

or regional level. If multi-country/regional, the proposals should specify the breakdown between the different country allocations.

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 HIPs<sup>8</sup>), where they are proven more suitable/effective than country-based interventions to respond to identified needs, taking into account the operating context, the strategy and the priorities set out in the HIP (or respective HIPs), the operational guidelines provided in section 4.1.2. of this Annex, as well as the applicant organisation's capacities. The proposals should specify the breakdown between the different country allocations.

g) Multi-year funding actions<sup>9</sup>

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.

#### 4. ADMINISTRATIVE INFO

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

a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 26 500 000

- Up to EUR 17 500 000<sup>10</sup> for Humanitarian Operations
- Up to EUR 2 000 000 for Education in Emergencies
- Up to EUR 7 000 000 for Disaster Preparedness

b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.

c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2024. Actions will start from 01/01/2024.

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<sup>8</sup> For multi country actions falling under more than one HIP, partners are requested to submit only one proposal in APPEL. The single form should refer to the HIP that covers the majority of targeted countries.

<sup>9</sup> For more information - See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding available on the DG ECHO 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)

<sup>10</sup> EUR 300 000 will be reserved for OCHA PPP

- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>11</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>12</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months unless there is a needs- or context-based justification for a shorter duration. For Disaster Preparedness, justification is needed only for particularly volatile contexts. 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 through 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 (see point e) of section 2 above).
- e) Potential partners<sup>13</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions.<sup>14</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 22/01/2024<sup>15</sup>

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

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 19 500 000.
  - Up to EUR 17 500 000<sup>16</sup> for Humanitarian Operations
  - Up to EUR 2 000 000 for Education in Emergencies
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2024. Actions will start from 01/01/2024.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>17</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>18</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months unless there is a needs- or context-based justification for a shorter duration. For Disaster Preparedness, justification is needed only for particularly volatile contexts. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under a previous Humanitarian

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<sup>11</sup> Maximum duration of an action is 48 months.

<sup>12</sup> 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))

<sup>13</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>14</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>15</sup> The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

<sup>16</sup> EUR 300 000 will be reserved for OCHA PPP.

<sup>17</sup> Maximum duration of an action is 48 months.

<sup>18</sup> 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))

Implementation Plan, can be submitted as modification requests to extend the overall duration to a maximum of 48 months. Actions can be funded under a maximum of three successive Humanitarian Implementation Plans. The same approach may also be used to further any multi-annual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 above).

- e) Potential partners<sup>19</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions.<sup>20</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: 15/01/2024<sup>21</sup>

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

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 2 000 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/ 2024. Actions will start from 01/01/2024.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>22</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>23</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months unless there is a needs- or context-based justification for a shorter duration. For Disaster Preparedness, justification is needed only for particularly volatile contexts. 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 (see point e) of section 2 above).
- e) Potential partners<sup>24</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>20</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>21</sup> The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

<sup>22</sup> Maximum duration of an action is 48 months.

<sup>23</sup> 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))

<sup>24</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>25</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 15/01/2024<sup>26</sup>

**Allocation round 4 - The Philippines**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 2 600 000.
  - Up to EUR 1 900 000 for Humanitarian Operations
  - Up to EUR 700 00 for Education in Emergencies
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2024. Actions will start from 01/01/2024.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>27</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>28</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months unless there is a needs- or context-based justification for a shorter duration. For Disaster Preparedness, justification is needed only for particularly volatile contexts. 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 (see point e) of section 2 above).
- e) Potential partners<sup>29</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions.<sup>30</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 22/01/2024<sup>31</sup>

**Allocation round 5 - Nepal**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 4 000 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2024. Actions will start from 01/01/2024.

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<sup>26</sup> The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

<sup>27</sup> Maximum duration of an action is 48 months.

<sup>28</sup> 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))

<sup>29</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>30</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>31</sup> The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>32</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>33</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months unless there is a needs- or context-based justification for a shorter duration. For Disaster Preparedness, justification is needed only for particularly volatile contexts. 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 (see point e) of section 2 above).
- e) Potential partners<sup>34</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions.<sup>35</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 08/01/2024<sup>36</sup>

#### **Allocation round 6 - Regional Disaster Preparedness**

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 1 700 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 4.1 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/ 2024. Actions will start from 01/01/2024.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more<sup>37</sup> provided that the added value of a multi-annual duration is demonstrated by the partner<sup>38</sup>. Education in Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months unless there is a needs- or context-based justification for a shorter duration. For Disaster Preparedness, justification is needed only for particularly volatile contexts. 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 through 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

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<sup>32</sup> Maximum duration of an action is 48 months.

<sup>33</sup> 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))

<sup>34</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>35</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>36</sup> The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

<sup>37</sup> Maximum duration of an action is 48 months.

<sup>38</sup> 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))



in furtherance of any multi-annual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point e) of section 2 above).

- e) Potential partners<sup>39</sup>: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form or Modifications requests of on-going actions.<sup>40</sup>
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 29/01/2024<sup>41</sup>

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

##### *4.4.1. 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?
- 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 & 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).

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<sup>39</sup> Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

<sup>40</sup> Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

<sup>41</sup> The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

- 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?<sup>42</sup>

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

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 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 Measures<sup>43</sup> 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 budget<sup>44</sup> (“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 Hungary<sup>45</sup>.

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<sup>42</sup> In accordance with the relevant section of the Single Form guidelines (section10)

<sup>43</sup> 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.

<sup>44</sup> 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

<sup>45</sup> OJ L 325, 20.12.2022, p. 94–109

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 2021<sup>46</sup>, including those entities listed in Annex I to Hungarian Act IX of 2021<sup>47</sup> 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.

The HIP Policy Annex should be consulted in parallel.

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

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

#### **Localisation**

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<sup>46</sup> Act IX of 2021 on public interest trust foundations with a public service mission (entry into force 01/01/2023).

<sup>47</sup> Available (in Hungarian) at: <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2021-9-00-00>

In line with the DG ECHO guidance on localisation<sup>48</sup>, 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).

### **Education in Emergencies**

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

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

### **Humanitarian Logistics**

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

The majority of organisations' environmental footprint comes from their logistics/supply chains, and as such these offer an opportunity to minimise environmental impacts<sup>49</sup>. 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.

### **Transfer modalities**

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

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<sup>48</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/dg%20echo%20guidance%20note%20-%20promoting%20equitable%20partnerships%20with%20local%20responders%20in%20humanitarian%20settings.pdf>

<sup>49</sup> 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.

in Annexe 3 of that document. In addition, programmes above EUR10 million should comply with the large-scale cash guidance note.

DG ECHO promotes a common system and/or coordinated programming approaches to reduce fragmentation and avoid duplication and parallel ways of working. This includes better operational coordination, coordinated approaches to vulnerability-based targeting, data interoperability (which respects data protection requirements) to facilitate deduplication and referrals. DG ECHO will systematically assess the cost-efficiency of different modalities, using the Total Cost to Transfer Ratio (TCTR), alongside the analysis of effectiveness. The principles laid down in the Cash Thematic Policy<sup>50</sup>, will form the basis for the assessment and selection of partners. Partners will be expected to demonstrate a satisfactory efficiency ratio (and should ensure that it is maintained throughout the action, unless otherwise approved by DG ECHO. To the extent possible and considering the operational context, partners will be assessed on their ability to work based on common vulnerability targeting criteria, single or interoperable beneficiary registries, a single payment mechanism, a common feedback mechanism and a common results framework. The large-scale cash guidance note (Annex 1 of the cash thematic policy) includes specific considerations for large-scale cash transfers: segregation of functions, cost-efficiency (including indirect costs), and full transparency on the costs to calculate the efficiency ratio.

DG ECHO promotes, wherever appropriate, a single multipurpose cash (MPC) payment to meet recurrent basic needs, through a common payment mechanism, and timely referral pathways to meet specific multi-sectoral outcomes based on a solid analysis.

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

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

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

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

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<sup>50</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/thematic\\_policy\\_document\\_no\\_3\\_cash\\_transfers\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/thematic_policy_document_no_3_cash_transfers_en.pdf)

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

**Applying cash in healthcare and nutrition programming** will only be considered on a case-by-case basis and if justified by in-depth assessment and analysis of the availability of healthcare in the proposed area of intervention. Potential cash application in healthcare and nutrition intervention will need to have clear healthcare and nutrition outcomes, with the application of associated indicators in the proposal.

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

At Specific Objective level:

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

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

At result level, DG ECHO recommends the use of:

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

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

### **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 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 their operations (a crisis within a crisis). Flexibility measures can be triggered to provide initial lifesaving multipurpose response in the aftermath of a rapid onset crisis, as well as to act in advance of an imminent shock; the three main scenarios are: i) to fill the time gap while waiting for additional resources; ii) to respond to small scale humanitarian needs which would otherwise remain unattended; iii) to provide assistance in advance of an imminent shock to prevent or reduce its acute humanitarian impact, according to a pre-agreed plan with defined triggers and actions.

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

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

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

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 oversee 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. 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.

In order to ensure a smooth transition from the previous annual allocation of funds to the current biennial frequency, a limited envelope has been established in 2024 to facilitate the shift between modalities and address specific gaps in some countries impacted by the transition. These "bridge funds" will be typically allocated for the extension of ongoing

actions that, based on strategic and programmatic considerations, are considered eligible for a top up to ensure expected objectives are met, and to mitigate any identified gaps resulting from the shift to the new allocation frequency. This measure will be applied only in 2024 to avert discontinuity and it is not meant to be repeated in 2025.

### **Humanitarian Food Assistance**

Improving availability of and accessibility to food shall be considered in the contexts of displaced populations and people affected by both human and natural hazard induced disasters. As needs are multiple, food assistance shall be part of a basic needs approach. In the context of global food and basic commodities crisis, needs and future risks shall be identified through a combination of food security analysis and multi-disciplinary multi-level early warning systems (e.g climate outlook, price trends, population movement tracking) so to allow to prepare for and act early.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Asia is prone to the emergence of zoonotic diseases and of diseases caused by new variant viral strains. Diseases that through their epidemic potential pose threats not only to the



communities and countries of origin, but also regionally and even globally. Such communicable diseases emerge regularly, as exemplified by seasonal influenza and by the COVID-19 pandemic, fuelled by population density, an intense human-animal interface, and by climatic favourable conditions, including higher temperatures as seen with ongoing global climate changes. Anticipating that such favourable conditions and events will increase possibly significantly in the years to come, it is pertinent that we intensify preventative and response efforts aimed at mitigating the impacts of such events. Reducing transmission of pathogens from animals to humans, strengthening of early warning systems, reinforcing rapid response instruments, and investment in the generation of effective and safe medicines and vaccines, are crucial strategic elements in the outlining of epidemic preparedness and response mechanisms that effectively address the threats associated with new emerging communicable diseases.

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

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

### **Environmental Requirements**

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 operations<sup>51</sup>.

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

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<sup>51</sup> [https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/climate-change-and-environment\\_en](https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/climate-change-and-environment_en)

minimise potential environmental impacts, (which should be mitigated from the onset) by thorough assessments/screenings and robust environmental management.

The environment and disasters are inherently linked and therefore integrating environmental considerations in the disaster risk reduction and preparedness frameworks and response tools at local and regional levels 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 Disaster Preparedness 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.).

## **ALLOCATION ROUND 1 - BANGLADESH**

**Humanitarian Aid:** in 2023, the security situation in camps has significantly deteriorated, including serious protection incidents, thus further increasing the complexity of the crisis compared to previous years. At the same time, the humanitarian response is facing important funding constraints which have already led to cuts in the provision of basic services (food, soap, NFI, LPG), combined with the impossibility to invest in more durable and longer terms solutions which may foster refugees' self-reliance. At the same time, camps continue to be exposed to natural disasters and hazards. In 2023, DG ECHO will continue to assist the Rohingya population and the most vulnerable host communities through the provision of critical services, with a specific focus on high-risk and highly vulnerable groups. Though most unmet needs remain in Cox's Bazar, partners could also include activities on Bhasan Char as part of their proposal.

**Protection** will remain central in its mainstreamed and programmatic elements. DG ECHO will continue supporting relevant prevention and emergency response interventions covering child protection, legal assistance, SGBV, access to justice, housing, land and property rights, detention, border monitoring, protection monitoring, family reunification, awareness raising, and advocacy, with a strong focus on community-based mechanisms and harmonised approaches among partners. Due to the deteriorating security situation, high-risk groups and high-risk cases should be prioritized, including men and boys, and response plans developed based on granular and specific assessments. Structured prevention activities, in line with international standards and with clearly articulated intentional protection outcomes, may also be considered.

**Health and Nutrition:** DG ECHO is committed to facilitating the delivery of quality primary health services, including sexual and reproductive health, medical response to SGBV as well as mental health. This commitment extends to enhancing surveillance, emergency preparedness and coordinated response, also in relation to epidemics and other disasters. Provision of essential preventive and curative nutrition services for children under five, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children will also be considered, including effective nutrition surveillance.

**Education:** DG ECHO will continue supporting the effective scale-up of the Myanmar Curriculum (MC) with the aim to ensure improved access to learning opportunities in a safe and protective learning environment as well as quality inclusive education for crisis-affected girls and boys. DG ECHO will also support appropriate accelerated and remedial education measures to ensure effective access to learning for vulnerable out-of-school children and to increase and foster retention, particularly for girls and adolescents, who are among the most affected by the overall safety and security deterioration in camps. Training of teachers to strengthen their capacity to deliver the MC will remain a priority, also in terms of provision of a more continuous and in-service accompaniment to teachers. Close synergies with Child Protection interventions must be sought preferably through integrated programming.

**WASH:** DG ECHO will explore the possibility of offering support to operation and maintenance of the WASH services in Cox's Bazar to ensure their resilience as well as protection of the environment and costs optimisation. Synergies and complementarities with development-based initiatives including in host communities are also recommended. Support will also be considered when integrated with other sectors such as health and nutrition, and when addressing critical and unmet needs linked to specific and/or unexpected events such as disasters and WASH related epidemics. Support to the response to cholera outbreaks may also be explored if integrated within the overall emergency health response with a Case Area Targeted Intervention (CATI) methodology.

**Shelter and Settlements (S&S):** DG ECHO will consider supporting the operation and maintenance of the camps in Cox's Bazar with a focus on protecting the environment, site planification, costs optimization and designs resilience. Support to address critical and unmet needs to specific and/or unexpected events such as disasters (floods, cyclones, landslides, earthquakes) will also be envisaged. DG ECHO will also support CCCM as part of disaster preparedness mainstreaming and greening of humanitarian aid. Efficient cooking solutions and practices will also be supported, notably LPG, to avoid deforestation.

**Cash** is the preferred assistance modality for DG ECHO whenever relevant and possible. However, the e-voucher system developed in Cox's Bazar and the efforts to replicate the same system in Bhasan Char remain the best doable option under the current government's policy to the use of unconditional and unrestricted cash for food and basic needs. Given the current limitations on the use of unconditional cash, DG ECHO also recommends the maximisation of the use of conditional cash in all sectors (e.g., volunteers, casual labours), with the aim to improve the capacity of households to better address their basic needs, considering current lower levels of assistance provided, particularly for food. DG ECHO additionally encourages the adoption of delivery platforms enabling interoperability, the provision of multiple types of assistance, and the exchange of information. Triggers and SOPs to swiftly adapt the food voucher value to the inflation are needed.

DG ECHO may consider providing support for sectoral and cross-sectoral coordination if duly justified in terms of expected outcomes and added value of DG ECHO's contribution and according to the agreed streamlining principles.

Proposed actions will have to subscribe to the Principles of Rationalisation with the aim to ensure that refugees have equitable access to basic services in a predictable, efficient, and timely manner and that the humanitarian community is more transparent and accountable. Proposals submitted to DG ECHO will have to be discussed in advance with Sectors to agree on priority areas, camps and facilities according to each sector analysis and prioritization.

**Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)** continues to be relevant, aiming to facilitate substantial and meaningful interaction between the humanitarian community and the affected population. This effort also seeks to enhance the ability of both refugees and the local community to engage effectively in the response. DG ECHO recommends partners to work towards more harmonised and simplified joint approaches to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure overall efficiency and effectiveness in terms of AAP.

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

Linkages to medium term programming and actions that include sustainable outcomes and opportunities for operational **nexus** are encouraged. Integration of non-conventional stakeholders in the response, e.g., the private sector, is also encouraged.

Partners are expected to **mainstream environmental considerations** by mitigating potential environmental impacts of their action and by applying cross-cutting minimum environmental requirements across interventions. Environmentally focused projects should be linked to sustainable sources of income and livelihood opportunities.

**Disaster Preparedness:** DG ECHO will consolidate its previous investments in disaster preparedness and seek new opportunities to further progress towards the institutionalisation of harmonised, risk-informed, and shock-responsive approaches in disaster prone areas at any necessary level (national, local and community level).

In particular, DG ECHO will:

- Maintain its focus on policy engagement to advance preparing for and acting early approaches, so to ‘make the case’ for anticipatory action to percolate within Government of Bangladesh systems and be owned accordingly, so to be used in multiple geography through for example the definition of locally tailored forecasts, triggers and alerts for multiple hazards (floods; cyclones; landslides; etc., inclusive of slow-onset hazards) to minimize the impact of future shocks and disasters. Sustainability, replicability, and effective institutionalisation of the researched system approach will remain DG ECHO’s main expected outcome, thus contributing to a more coherent, robust and evidence-based Anticipatory Action framework and approach in country. Opportunities for innovation and alternative approaches are also recommended.
- Building on the insights gained from HIP 2023's targeted investments in testing shock-responsive social protection in Bangladesh, continue fostering its efforts towards developing a robust, all-encompassing, and well-coordinated ‘proof of concept’. This endeavour aims to methodically infuse shock responsiveness into chosen government safety net programs, setting the stage for future and effective scaling up, institutionalisation and replicability, all with a specific focus on the most vulnerable households and individuals. This includes discriminated or marginalised people, often excluded from social safety nets programs and living in hard-to-reach areas.
- Continue to enhance the financial sustainability, replicability and institutionalisation of the different approaches tested to date, create opportunities for engaging with

different stakeholders and establish synergies and complementarities between public and private institutions where feasible. This includes the private sector, particularly but not limited to mass casualty management and safety protocols in urban settings, as well as exploring opportunities for an effective collaboration with climate risk financing instruments.

Consolidate and protect previous investments and gains in disaster preparedness in refugees' camps, in line with the operationalisation of a 'one camp' DP modality, including multi-hazard safety and initiatives to promote a more coherent and coordinated preparedness and response approach. In accordance with national legislation, tools and models, any proposal should be designed with the objective to minimise risks for fragmentation and enhance sustainability considerations. Further innovations, also in terms of nature-based solutions, are also recommended. All proposals should not only be designed with systems approach but additionally specify clearly defined entry and exit strategies based on prioritized gaps and bottlenecks, thus further contributing to the replication of relevant frameworks and approaches in country by the State.

## **ALLOCATION ROUND 2 - MYANMAR**

The humanitarian needs in Myanmar in 2023 represented an almost 18-fold increase compared to the 1 million people in need in 2021. The HRP 2023 targeted 4.5 million PIN. Following Cyclone Mocha in May 2023, a flash appeal targeted an additional 0.5 million people. 2023 saw a continued deterioration of an already dramatic humanitarian situation, with dynamic and intense fighting generating continued population displacements, particularly in the Northwest and Southeast parts of the country. The number of Internally Displacement Persons (IDPs) had nearly reached 1.9 million people as of July 2023, in a context marked by complex and constrained humanitarian access. DG ECHO will aim to maintain a flexible approach in terms of thematic and geographic priorities, in line with needs and access realities, while supporting operational nexus initiatives across sectors, as well as overall synergies contributing to greater aid effectiveness. The thematic priorities identified for 2023 will remain like 2022, with some thematic policies entering into force (see section 4.1.2 above), which are to be factored into all proposals by all partners. With three consecutive years of severe underfunding of the HRP, DG ECHO will pay extra attention to the cost-effectiveness of the selected actions. In past years, there has been a significant imbalance in needs coverage between government-controlled and non-government-controlled areas. DG ECHO will pay greater attention to allocating resources in a way to better support those in underserved, conflict-affected and restricted areas, while maintaining a fair level of assistance to other areas, and to protracted caseloads of people in need. Emergency assistance remains an essential entry point for DG ECHO, which recognises the need to increase and improve timely and quality assistance where needs are most acute. This should be factored into all proposals and sectors, including in actions not specifically dedicated to "emergency assistance". Nexus is a crosscutting priority in Myanmar and partners are encouraged to demonstrate how they intend to operationalise the Nexus across eligible sectors, including, but not limited to building synergies with other relevant programs and seizing opportunities to reduce the dependence of people in need on humanitarian aid. As DG ECHO is contributing to the Nexus Response Mechanism (NRM), all applying partners are requested to highlight intended synergies with NRM programmes in their respective targeted areas (in all relevant sections of the Single Form / annex). It is

compulsory for partners to apply DG ECHO's environmental requirements in view of mitigating the potential environmental impacts of their actions.

The priorities per sector are (in the order expressed by partners who responded to the HIP consultation):

**Food assistance:** The scope of intervention and geographic targeting should be based on up-to-date needs assessments, with a focus on conflict-affected populations and IDPs. Support to both protracted and more recent IDPs is eligible and recommended to be integrated into a broader basic needs approach. Food assistance targeting should be based on vulnerability rather than status, particularly for protracted IDPs. For recent IDPs in hard-to-reach areas, where: i) vulnerability-based targeting is not possible due to limited access and the acuteness and severity of the crisis; ii) where it is impossible to differentiate people's level of need; and iii) where there is a balance to be made between the level of data that can be collected and the timeliness of the assistance, from an overall cost-efficiency perspective, blanket targeting for food assistance/basic needs may be appropriate. In consideration of DG ECHO's sustained commitment to expand cash transfers while adapting to challenges (e.g., inflation, cash liquidity, disrupted financial services), the operational feasibility of cash modality for food assistance and other basic needs should systematically be analysed to ensure flexibility. Clean energy for cooking needs should be foreseen to limit deforestation.

**Protection:** Priority interventions include monitoring and analysis to inform specialised response services for communities or persons at heightened risk of all kinds of violence and violations, irrespective of age or gender; systematic application of the DG ECHO basic protection package in emergency response; and referral pathways to specialised services (with clear demonstration of such pathways). This includes case management, legal aid and humanitarian mine action, including victim assistance. Effective strategies for dissemination and/or promotion of respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) through private and public advocacy at local and regional/global levels, as well as community-centred advocacy efforts on humanitarian priorities and access, will be supported. Partners involved in Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) will be expected to actively contribute to an effective advocacy strategy for mine action at local, national, and regional levels. Structured prevention activities, in line with international standards and with clearly articulated intentional protection outcomes, may also be considered. DG ECHO partners are requested to provide: i) a protection risk analysis; and ii) an "avoid doing harm" strategy, to ensure that activities are properly contextualised and protection sensitive as per DG ECHO Guidelines.

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

**Disaster Preparedness:** The First Line Emergency Response (FLER) consortium is DG ECHO's primary instrument for disaster and emergency preparedness, as well as provision of emergency multi-sector assistance. The focus in 2024 will be on consolidating and improving systems in place, as well as on expanding needs coverage, through further capacity building and strengthening of local civil society organisation networks. FLER intends to respond to the most urgent basic needs resulting from conflict or hydro-meteorological and geo-physical hazards. The assistance intends to be timely, coordinated, and harmonised, with a strong localisation focus (as per standard FLER assistance package and modalities). Sectors covered beyond DP include Food/Non-Food Items/Shelter/WASH, the basic protection package, and linkages with other services for referral to address more long-term needs, such as Education in Emergencies (EiE), health and specialised protection. FLER activities are eligible in both urban and rural settings and may involve local volunteer networks.

**Emergency Response:** Specialised sector-based interventions should consider including an emergency response capacity that could complement other multi-sector emergency response actions. IDPs should be targeted. The ability to provide timely assistance when needs surge should be adequately reflected in needs and response analyses. FLER is a Myanmar-specific and localised ERM/RRM response modality providing initial multisector assistance for up to two months. It is currently a large consortium of international and local NGOs, led by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and covering a large part of conflict-affected areas across the country.

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

**Health and Nutrition:** the focus will be on the provision of emergency assistance, along with access to primary and secondary health care (fixed or mobile services), including management of acute undernutrition and Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (IYCF), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), primarily focusing on IDPs and host communities, conflict-affected and hard to reach populations. Partners' approaches must be based on an up-to-date situation and needs analysis. Adequate waste management, including of packaging waste, should be ensured.

**Other important considerations:**

**Transfer of funds:** The use of cash transfer agents in Myanmar can be approved as eligible expenditure in the framework of DG ECHO grants or contribution agreements with the application of a maximum fee of 5% of each amount transferred through the concerned cash transfer agent, in line with the principles of reasonable and justified costs and of sound financial management, regarding economy and efficiency. At the latest in the final report, the Partner must provide a justification for the use of such cash transfer agents as a temporary and last resort option as well as information as to internal control measures in place to

mitigate the risks associated with the use of such agents, such as risk of diversion of funds to persons or entities designated under the EU sanctions or to entities engaged in illicit activities. Beyond cash programmes, such agents can also be used under the same conditions as above where cash transfers are necessary on a last resort basis to meet partners' organisational and operational needs (such as paying staff or suppliers).

**Localisation and fair partnerships:** The localisation agenda is a policy priority of DG ECHO and an operational reality in Myanmar. Partners' actions, either short-term or multi-annual, must include an annex detailing their approach to localisation in terms of technical and organisational capacity strengthening, mutual benefit, transparency, equity, security management, risk sharing and duty of care. In view of supporting this approach, the allocation of an "adequate share of overhead costs" is considered necessary and shall not imply additional costs included in the action's budget. While local partners are often lacking capacities to involve themselves in coordination mechanisms, they should be supported in doing so up to the level of their role in aid delivery.

**Access and remote management:** Humanitarian actors, particularly international ones, face increasingly complex access challenges and humanitarian aid is largely delivered by local partners, often through remote management modalities. Partners' proposals should make clear to what extent they will be directly managing the activities described in their proposals, and to what extent remote management will be used. Partial or full remote management should be acknowledged through the submission of the DG ECHO remote management questionnaire as an annex to the proposal. Modalities of direct/remote/mixed monitoring should be detailed.

**Advocacy:** DG ECHO supports the development of advocacy strategies at local, national, regional, and international levels. Some examples of the objectives these advocacy strategies can aim to achieve are: more effective and principled aid delivery; better implementation of the nexus; and greater respect for IHL. Partners should outline how their approach will contribute to a particular sector or initiative in a separate annex and in the form of a structured advocacy plan. The capacity to collect and provide evidence-based data to feed advocacy dialogues on protection concerns and IHL violations will receive consideration.

### **ALLOCATION ROUND 3 - REGIONAL REFUGEES CRISIS**

*Scope of response:* In 2023, DG ECHO will continue to build and respond to the forced displacements stemming from crises in the region. This component aims to address both the **regional implications of the Rohingya crisis in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and India**, and the **regional refugee implications following the coup in Myanmar in February 2021** within individual proposals. Considered 'safe havens' for many, South and Southeast Asian countries, in particular Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and India have long hosted considerable numbers of refugees and asylum seekers from various nationalities (Myanmar including Rohingya, Afghan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Somalia). However, none of these countries, who also hosts a significant number of refugees and asylum seekers, are signatories to the international conventions on refugees and statelessness and correspondingly they also lack national frameworks to protect refugees and asylum seekers. This places refugees and asylum seekers in a highly precarious legal void, where recipient countries consider them as 'illegal' and hence they are often denied their fundamental right to protection. Thus, whilst focus is on displacement originating in the situation in Myanmar, the envisaged response encompasses, a **non-discriminatory "one-refugee" approach**



**aiming to support humanitarian interventions targeting the most severely affected populations in need of protection and assistance, irrespective of their country of origin.** This legal void calls for a protection centred response. As such a solid protection risk analysis and clear articulation in the response strategies, combined with a quality monitoring framework and AAP need to be ensured.

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

**Preparedness for and first response** – Support scenario planning for minimum response across the region on natural-hazard and human-induced disasters, boat movements, relocations / repatriations, etc. This will be done to a) harmonise targeting and response strategies for different scenarios taking cognisance of country specific socio-political-cultural contexts b) ensuring minimum response capacity across the region for provision of immediate basic needs around protection, healthcare, food, nutrition, EiE, shelter (NFIs) and WASH activities in case of large-scale movements (whether forced or voluntary). Demonstrated flexibility in assistance approaches, delivery modalities, and geographical areas of intervention – assist people where they are – will be a core component of evaluating proposals.

**Protection programming** – Strengthen protection services focused on legal aid, documentation, refugee status determination (RSD) including expedited renewals of RSD, restoring family links, child protection (alternative care and tracing for unaccompanied minors) and follow-up of those detained for illegal migration in the region (Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, and India). Simultaneously also provide protection response to victims of all kinds of violence. Attention to be paid to alternative strategies where appropriate such as work rights and livelihood opportunities.

**Coordination and advocacy** – Support mechanisms and platforms that promote effective regional and cross-border coordination to ensure effective protection monitoring, preparedness and response plans, and joint evidence-based advocacy, for example, through joint advocacy statements by the International NGO Forums in ASEAN countries and India while also reviving the Bali Process.

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

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

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

## **ALLOCATION ROUND 4 - THE PHILIPPINES**

In 2023, the fragility of armed conflict in Mindanao **Philippines** continues with increasing frequency of fighting whilst more displacement events are underreported. Many displaced and affected families are unassisted. For 2024, DG ECHO will continue to be aware of and responsive to this forgotten crisis. Humanitarian action/s will focus on the multi-sectoral unmet needs of most vulnerable families repeatedly displaced due to armed conflict, such as the Special Geographic Areas in the Bangsamoro areas and the geographically and the Geographically Isolated Depressed Areas in the ethnic Lumad areas. All forms of assistance should mainstream protection, environmental considerations, efficient supply system, building back better, and do no harm principles.

**Health and Nutrition:** Crucial gaps in healthcare and nutrition service delivery will be prioritized for disadvantaged areas such as Special Geographic Areas and Lumad communities where access to services is extremely disrupted. These most vulnerable families will be assured of physical or other means of access to existing healthcare facilities and services and referral systems.

**Shelter and Settlements:** Particularly in new displacements, temporary shelters are safe, within standard, and complemented with basic household needs. Modality of assistance should ensure preference of beneficiaries and specificity of needs whether IDPs or host families.

**Water Sanitation and Hygiene:** Displaced families and host communities will be provided context appropriate water, sanitation, and hygiene assistance. Access to safe, sufficient local water supply, inclusive sanitation facilities, and promotion of standard hygiene practices will be analysed and provided based on the situation and preference of the beneficiaries.

**Humanitarian Food Assistance and Livelihood:** In Mindanao, humanitarian food assistance will complement initial food stock of beneficiaries upon displacement. Cash will be used whenever feasible. Cash assistance based on the minimum expenditure basket will support emergency livelihood alternatives in the crucial time of displacement.

**Protection:** Direct protection assistance will be provided to conflict and disaster affected people disadvantaged, discriminated, and have no access to basic social services and protection such as IDPs with no legal documentation and those who suffer from abuse and trauma due to armed conflict and calamities.

**Education in Emergencies:** Children whose education has been interrupted and suffering from protection issues will be supported to re-enrol and sufficiently fulfil their needs to stay safe in school and continue their current, disrupted school year level.

Whilst attending to the immediate needs of population affected by man-made and natural-hazards -induced disasters, actions should ensure that nexus goal is also pursued wherein local government is fully capable to respond to the emergency and recovery needs of the people.

## **ALLOCATION ROUND 5 - NEPAL**

DG ECHO DP investments will continue to foster the uptake and institutionalization of harmonised, as much as possible common, multi-hazard approaches through strengthening local DRM governance and ownership. With primary focus to be placed in the earthquake and landslides risk regions of Nepal, this may include urban DP and landslide management,

building on available learning, evidence and legacy of the previous targeted DG ECHO DP investments.

Consolidation of the transition from centralised governance to a federal system such as the one envisaged by the new Constitution, through focusing on tackling local DRM risk governance gaps and bottlenecks will be supported. DG ECHO in Nepal will aim to support local governments, primarily targeting the municipal and provincial government to enhance their capacity and capabilities in a whole- of society risk-informed approach to natural hazards, so that these investments can be embedded in own systems and in future paid by locally prioritised financial resources. Any proposal must aim to ensure the inclusion of marginalised population groups through risk-informed and shock responsive social protection approaches. Local government for and acting early capacity can be strengthened by including shared anticipatory action frameworks if fully owned by the State.

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

- Identifying, analysing, and owning risks together with communities including a continuous review of their current capacities and capabilities.
- Establishing risk informed approaches that incorporate standard operating protocols for shock responsive social protection and anticipatory action (e.g., linking forecast, early warning, parameters, triggers, response etc.);
- Stimulating a demand driven resourcing from provincial and federal government thus enables local governments to manage and consolidate preparedness and response plans for their own constituencies through dedicated fiscal allocations.
- Enhancing coordination frameworks between the three governmental levels, to strengthen the response mechanism for future risks.

## **ALLOCATION ROUND 6 - REGIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

The main aim of DG ECHO's disaster preparedness strategy is to put people at the very core of regional and state DRM design. Thematic focus will continue to be placed on supporting anticipatory action and shock responsive social protection systems. Evidencing, making the case for these so that they can be replicated with public fiscal management by relevant stakeholders must be accompanied by delivery of services for people in need and at risk in all proposals.

Proposals should be thematic in outlook, based on regional approaches, at all-time reinforcing local preparedness and response capacity, whenever possible working at system level and as comprehensively and coherently as possible amongst DG ECHO Partners and stakeholders. If relevant, how they contribute to and enhance previous DG ECHO targeted Disaster Preparedness investments must be detailed.

In every preparedness investment, inclusion of climate and environmentally sensitive programming will be systematically promoted through a multi-hazard and multi-sector approach whereby risks are identified by those who are most vulnerable, marginalised and in need. Influencing strategies proposed must be detailed in relevant sections of the eSF.

All trainings and tools under the Disaster Preparedness framework should 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). Sensitization campaigns and outreach activities led by local community organizations can help raise awareness about the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable resource management in improving disaster preparedness.

All proposals should be designed with systems approach and also specify clearly defined entry and exit strategies, based on prioritized gaps and bottlenecks. Proposals should thus further contribute to the replication of relevant frameworks and approaches by the State and/or regional inter-governmental organisations. Risk analysis should be detailed and must be multi-hazard in outlook. 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.

All proposals should be designed with systems approach and also specify clearly defined entry and exit strategies, based on prioritized gaps and bottlenecks. Proposals should thus further contribute to the replication of relevant frameworks and approaches by the State and/or regional inter-governmental organisations. Risk analysis should be detailed and must be multi-hazard in outlook.

The systematic inclusion of those who are most vulnerable in relevant DRM plans at all levels, advocating for inclusive policies that comprehensively protect vulnerable and at-risk populations so that they are better prepared to withstand shocks and crises whenever they reside, will continue to remain at the centre of DG ECHO action and how to must be detailed in every proposal.