

TECHNICAL ANNEX

NORTH AFRICA

FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

The provisions of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2025/01000 and the General Conditions of the Agreement with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

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

1. CONTACTS

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2. FINANCIAL INFO

Indicative Allocation²: EUR 19.000.000 of which an indicative amount of EUR 2.539.875 for Education in Emergencies.

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

Programmatic Partnerships:

Programmatic Partnerships have been launched since 2020 with a limited number of partners. Extensions of ongoing ones could be funded under this HIP³.

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

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
ALGERIA	9.000.000				9.000.000
EGYPT	7.000.000				7.000.000
LIBYA	2.000.000				2.000.000
REGIONAL			1.000.000		1.000.000
Total	18.000.000		1.000.000		19.000.000

3. PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT⁵

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)⁶.

b) Financial support to third parties (implementing partners)

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

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

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

⁵ *This section has to be filled in for the initial publication of the HIP. In case of a modification of the HIP, this section must only be filled in if DG ECHO intends to make a new allocation of funding.*

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

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.

Where part of the action is delivered through implementing partners, submitted proposals must include a full list of these entities (section 10.6 or annex). If implementing partners are still being identified at the time of submission, the proposal must include a timetable for their selection and a deadline for transmitting relevant information to DG ECHO.

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 duly justified requests for alternative arrangements via the Single Form, 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 Partnerships⁷

⁷ See the dedicated [guidance](#) on Programmatic Partnerships.

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 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 HIPs⁸), 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. Proposals should specify the breakdown between the different country allocations.

g) Multi-year funding actions⁹

HIPs may be used for multi-year funding actions, which should have a duration of minimum 24 months and where 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. Any proposals submitted should demonstrate these gains, which should be monitored during the implementation of the action and must be reported in the final report of the action. For Sahrawis crisis multi-year funding actions will be considered for Food-Security

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 Sahrawis crisis

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 9.000.000
- b) Costs will be eligible from 01/ 01/ 2025
- c) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months or more¹⁰ provided that the partner demonstrates the added value of a multi-annual duration¹¹. Education in

⁸ 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.

⁹ For more information - See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding available on the DG ECHO Website ([DGEcho WebSite \(dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu\)](https://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 \(interagencystandingcommittee.org\)](#)

¹⁰ Maximum duration of an action is 48 months.

Emergencies actions do not need further justification and should have an initial duration of at least 24 months unless there is a need- or context-based and 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. 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).

- d) Potential partners¹²: All DG ECHO Partners
- e) Single Form (new requests or modifications of ongoing actions).¹³
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 31/01/2025

Allocation round 2 EGYPT (the Syrian and sub-Saharan refugees)

- a) Indicative amounts: up to EUR 5.000.000
- b) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2025
- c) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, can be submitted as modification requests for the ongoing action with a time extension of up to 24 months and a total duration of the modified action of up to 48 months. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point 3e). Education in Emergencies actions should have an initial duration of at least 24 months unless there is a need- or context-based justification for a shorter duration.
- d) Potential partners: All DG ECHO Partners
- e) Information to be provided: Single Form (new requests or modifications of ongoing actions).¹⁴
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 15/02/2025

Allocation round 3 Disaster Preparedness

- a) Indicative amounts: up to EUR 1.000.000

¹¹ See the factsheet on EU Humanitarian Aid Multi-Year Funding available on the DG ECHO Website ([DGEcho WebSite \(dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu\)](https://dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu)).

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

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

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

- b) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2025
- g) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, can be submitted as modification requests for the ongoing action with a time extension of up to 24 months and a total duration of the modified action of up to 48 months. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point 3e). Education in Emergencies actions should have an initial duration of at least 24 months unless there is a need- or context-based justification for a shorter duration.
- c) Potential partners: All DG ECHO Partners
- d) Information to be provided: Single Form (new requests or modifications of ongoing actions).
- e) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 15/02/2025

Allocation round 4 Egypt and Libya (refugees)

- a) Indicative amounts: up to EUR 2.000.000 for Egypt and up to EUR 2.000.000 for Libya
- b) The additional funding will be used to address the basic needs of the Sudanese refugees in Egypt and urgent primary health and WASH needs in Southeast Libya.

Priority 1 (Egypt): Actions focusing on enabling protection space for vulnerable and marginalised groups, delivering critical services to prevent exposure to heightened risks of violence, abuse, and exploitation.

Priority 2 (Libya): Basic Wash Interventions (Immediate access to safe water, Emergency Sanitation measures, Promotion of hygiene practices, Prevention of disease outbreaks) and Basic Health interventions in the Southeast areas of the country where the Sudanese refugee influx is increasing and disrupting basic services, in an integrated manner.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2025
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Disaster Preparedness. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations financed under the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, can be submitted as modification requests for the ongoing action with a time extension of up to 24 months and a total duration of the modified action of up to 48 months. The same approach may also be used to the extent appropriate in furtherance of any multiannual strategies provided for by the HIP (see point 3e). Education in Emergencies actions should have an initial duration of at least 24 months unless there is a need- or context-based justification for a shorter duration.

- e) Potential Partners: **For Egypt**, pre-selected partner: UNHCR in view of its specific mandate and expertise in the priority sector.

For Libya, Partners with long standing presence in Southeastern Libya and specialised in the above-mentioned sectors of health and/or WASH

- f) Information to be provided: **For Egypt**, Single form submitted under allocation round 1 – **For Libya**, Single Form (new requests or modifications of ongoing actions).
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 15/04/2025

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, including local partners)? 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, risk analysis, 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 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?¹⁵

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 Measures¹⁶ issued under any Council Implementing Decision adopted in accordance with Article 6 of EU

¹⁵ In accordance with the relevant section of the Single Form guidelines (section10)

¹⁶ 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.

Regulation 2020/2092 on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget¹⁷ (“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 Hungary¹⁸.**

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 2021¹⁹, including those entities listed in Annex I to Hungarian Act IX of 2021²⁰ 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:

The HIP Policy Annex should be consulted in parallel.²¹

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.

In line with the DG ECHO guidance on **localisation**²², 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 costs to their local implementing partners. In addition, DG ECHO will prioritise proposals where the locally led action constitutes a

¹⁷ 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

¹⁸ OJ L 325, 20.12.2022, p. 94–109

¹⁹ Act IX of 2021 on public interest trust foundations with a public service mission (entry into force 01/01/2023).

²⁰ Available (in Hungarian) at: <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2021-9-00-00>

²¹ [thematic_policies_annex_2025.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/dg%20echo%20guidance%20note%20-%20promoting%20equitable%20partnerships%20with%20local%20responders%20in%20humanitarian%20settings.pdf) (europa.eu)

²² <https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/dg%20echo%20guidance%20note%20-%20promoting%20equitable%20partnerships%20with%20local%20responders%20in%20humanitarian%20settings.pdf>

central element, which are designed bottom up, and where DG ECHO partners provide relevant support to local partners' response (technical training, institutional support, peer learning etc.).

DG ECHO expects to see a common system and/or coordinated programming approaches to reduce fragmentation, avoid duplication and parallel ways of working. This includes better operational coordination, coordinated approaches to vulnerability-based targeting, coordinated and streamlined approaches to data collection, including the use of minimum common data sets, interoperability of data and data management systems across the response to facilitate deduplication and referrals, a common payment mechanism, a common feedback mechanism and a common results framework.

DG ECHO supports responsible sharing of data between humanitarian organisations to avoid fragmentation of efforts and improve the efficiency of humanitarian response. Interoperability of data and data management systems is a cornerstone of these efforts. While working on interoperability, partners should employ coordinated and streamlined approaches to data collection, including developing minimum common datasets and seek ways to share data with other actors at the response level to facilitate referrals and deduplication of beneficiaries. DG ECHO will prefer proposals that, in addition to their programmatic goals, also work to support/ facilitate the safe sharing of data between organisations.

DG ECHO encourages partners to use process indicators to report on the deduplication and operational coordination with peer partners. Suggested process indicators are:

- *# of framework agreements with stakeholders for interoperability/ data management.*
- *# / % of beneficiaries deduplicated during registration.*
- *Amount of EUR prevented from unintended assistance overlap.*

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. 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.

Where assistance is to be delivered in the form of **cash transfers**, particular attention will be paid to the principles laid down in DG ECHO's cash thematic policy²³, which will form the basis for the assessment and selection of partners. Partners will be expected to demonstrate a satisfactory efficiency ratio and should ensure that it is maintained throughout the action, unless otherwise approved by DG ECHO. To the extent possible and considering the operational context, partners will be assessed on their ability to work based on common targeting criteria, single or interoperable beneficiary registries, a single payment mechanism, a common feedback mechanism and a common results framework. The large-scale cash guidance note (Annex 1 of the cash thematic policy) 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.

Specific implementation of the following elements in the proposal should be demonstrated as appropriate:

- Mainstreaming of protection, gender, age and disability inclusion based on a comprehensive needs and risk analysis;
- Strategies for effective prevention of and response to Gender Based Violence (GBV);
- Strategies for effective prevention of and response to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH), including adequate and victim/survivor-centred response approaches and reporting channels.

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](#),

In line with the Disaster Preparedness Guidance Note²⁴, preparedness activities should be systematically mainstreamed into humanitarian operations to strengthen the capacity to respond to a crisis within a crisis (e.g. sudden floods during a conflict) or any recrudescence or aftershock, except in duly justified cases. To make humanitarian action more effective, response interventions should be designed to reduce immediate and imminent risks, and not add new risks (the 'do no harm' principle).

Environmental considerations

²³ https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/thematic_policy_document_no_3_cash_transfers_en.pdf

²⁴ [dg_echo_guidance_note_-_disaster_preparedness_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

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 operations²⁵.

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.

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 including through crisis modifiers

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 location of their operations (a crisis within a crisis). In addition to the embedded flexibility into all ECHO funded actions (that can in some cases be subject to an adaption of the Action through an amendment), it can take the form of a "crisis modifier". A specific result in the action, Flexibility measures/crisis modifiers 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.

²⁵ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/climate-change-and-environment_en

ERM/RRM and flexibility measures/crisis modifiers are complementary and do not exclude each other; flexibility measures enable stakeholders 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) ReliefEU Capabilities (former European Humanitarian Response Capacity - EHRC)

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

Under this HIP, DG ECHO includes the provision of common logistics services to humanitarian partners in the form of international and in-country transport operations (across various modes of transport), warehousing capacities, prepositioning and delivery of emergency stockpiles, and other supply chain/logistical support and coordination, as well as deployment of expertise and capabilities. ReliefEU capabilities are developed via different modalities. Some actions may be operated directly by DG ECHO through DG ECHO partners or through contracting arrangements with private service providers with the required expertise, whilst others may be indirectly managed through DG ECHO partners or collaborators. When receiving support through the ReliefEU Capabilities, inputs will be part of the partner's response action and will, where relevant, be included in existing grant agreements.

(4) Disaster Preparedness targeted actions (financed through the DP budget line)

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.

4.1.2.2. Country-Specific Priorities

For 2025, DG ECHO operational guidelines for North Africa are as follows:

I. Horizontal mandatory requirements

- ✓ Disaster Risk Reduction and environmental impact mainstreaming: all project proposals submitted to DG ECHO should be in line with the Grand Bargain commitments. They should be risk informed (cf. the resilience marker). The latter

means that they should systematically integrate risk assessments and monitoring of potential hazards as well as anticipate their impacts. Humanitarian actors have a collective responsibility to ensure that their work does not contribute to the deterioration of the environment. This calls for taking all necessary measures to reduce the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid as specified in the HIP Policy Annex. Activities aiming at reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid should be present in all DG ECHO funded actions and applied through a ‘mainstreaming’ approach, across sectors, projects, and programs with special attention on mitigating the negative environmental impacts in protracted, chronic situations and responses linked to humanitarian sites and settlements. The activities that cause natural resource depletion. Uncontrolled waste disposal linked to humanitarian settlements/sites as well as to communal facilities such as schools, health centres and distribution centres, should be addressed by providing sustainable waste management solutions. Please refer to the DG ECHO ‘Guidance on the operationalisation of the minimum environmental requirements and recommendations for EU-funded humanitarian aid operations’.²⁶

- ✓ The four dimensions of protection mainstreaming (access, accountability, safety/do no harm/dignity, participation/empowerment) should be integrated into all actions (see the policy annex for details).
- ✓ Coordination among humanitarian actors, advocacy and visibility remain important to raise the profile of this forgotten crisis and to attract development/stabilisation as well as non-traditional donors. DG ECHO will consider specific reference to humanitarian advocacy initiatives within all proposed actions.
- ✓ Humanitarian-Development Nexus: DG ECHO partners will be required to adopt more efficient, qualitative, effective and sustainable approaches, in line with the multi-annual sectorial strategies, developed by the different sectorial coordination groups. Local ownership of essential services should be promoted as well. Nevertheless, advocacy for operationalising the nexus with development donors should continue.
- ✓ For any partner proposing the provision of incentives or any similar approach, a strong justification must be provided to mitigate the risk of non-eligibility of the incentives, such as: i) a clear analysis and demonstration that the incentives are essential and critical for the proposed action; ii) the likely impact on the proposed action if incentives were not provided. Indeed, the conditions of eligibility for salary costs of the personnel of national administrations are set in the DG ECHO Financial Regulation. Art 186.4 (e) of the Financial Regulation specifies that “*Salary costs of personnel of national administrations may only be considered as eligible costs, to the extent that they relate to the cost of activities that the relevant public authority would not carry out if the action was not undertaken.*” This requires a coordinated approach across sectors (education, health, Wash...), between humanitarian organisations and an agreement with the Sahrawi camps

²⁶ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/f6d2240b-2d94-11ed-975d-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

authorities. Additionally, the engagement of development actors would help ensuring the sustainability of the system.

- ✓ VAT issues: In line with section 9.3. of the FPA guidelines, partners are expected to coordinate with the relevant authorities for an effective VAT exemption. Only if this exemption is not granted and partners demonstrate that they had taken all the necessary steps, VAT could be considered eligible.
- ✓ Security: DG ECHO acknowledges the security risks for humanitarian workers in the North Africa context. Security-related costs will therefore continue to be eligible.

II. Sectorial specific requirements

Sahrawis crisis

Food Assistance

Timely access in sufficient quantity and quality is crucial for food insecure households, particularly the most vulnerable. The result of the WFP 2024 surveys, the Food Security Assessment (FSA), and the Nutritional Causal Analysis (NCA), should be the basis for beneficiaries' targeting and strategic multi-annual planning. The shift from a blanket status-based assistance to a targeted approach based on clearly defined both food security vulnerability and usual vulnerability criteria should be expended to focus on the most vulnerable. In line with DG ECHO food assistance and nutrition policies, Food assistance should be complemented with contextual nutrition awareness sessions. Special focus should be on the prevention of negative behaviour leading to anaemia, stunting and overweight and continued monitoring of food security and nutritional trends. DG ECHO might consider supporting the access to fresh food to improve the dietary diversity for the most vulnerable food insecure refugees with poor food consumption scores (FCS).

The extension of the cash transfers project is encouraged for Pregnant and Lactating Women with malnutrition. For other eligible beneficiaries, based on vulnerability criteria, partial replacement of in-kind distribution by e-card should be considered. Modality choice should be informed by a needs-based and people-centred response analysis, incorporating timely market, operational and environmental analyses. All cash interventions should comply with DG ECHO's cash thematic policy, including the sector-specific considerations as specified in Annex 2 of that document²⁷.

Nutrition

Focus intervention will include specific measures for improved quality of service delivery for management of acute malnutrition, provision of adequate supplementary feeding based on their nutritional needs to children under 5 years old and to lactating and pregnant women. Active community MUAC screening and referral and improved nutritional follow-up of infants and children in health facilities are also required. All activities

²⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/thematic_policy_document_no_3_cash_transfers_en.pdf

proposed to DG ECHO should take into account the results of the Nutrition Causal Analysis. Education on nutrition good practices and the promotion of specific approaches for reinforcement of maternal, infant, and young child feeding (1000 days, MIYCF) should be included as a complementary activity. All actions in this regard will have to be in line with the Social Behavioural Change Communication Strategy 2020-2025 for the Sahrawi Camps.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

DG ECHO will continue to support operations aiming to secure and preserve the water resources, to expand the water pipe network (as per WASH 2019-2026) strategy, improve water management and to prepare the transfer of the water network' management and maintenance to the local water committees. Projects should identify and integrate solution to ensure equitable access to water supplies in quantities defined by humanitarian standards. Hygiene promotion activities with a special attention to water tank cleaning and behavioural changes in prevention/response to waterborne diseases should be integrated in wash projects. All partners submitting WASH proposals are required to take into account the risks linked to natural hazards. Risk mapping of construction sites, operations and maintenance plans are mandatory for all water infrastructure.

Health

DG ECHO will focus on the provision and management of essential drugs, including medicines for non-communicable diseases, and supplies based on the needs and as determined in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM). Local purchases of drugs and medical equipment are encouraged when responding to the quality criteria as described in the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) and to at short- & mid-term cost effectiveness consideration.

Emergency preparedness and response will have to be included, and particularly support to immunization campaigns when requested.

Durable solutions in line with international standard should be further implemented for medical waste management.

Education in Emergencies (EiE)

DG ECHO will continue the support to the implementation of the 2021-2025 multi-annual strategy aiming at ensuring inclusive access to quality education for all children in the Sahrawi camps.

DG ECHO pays particular attention to children out of school or at risk of dropping out with the objective of their successful integration into formal education. Innovative approaches to encourage motivation for retention, progression may be considered.

Actions may include provision of teacher incentives and teaching and learning material as well as training for teachers and other education staff.

All proposed actions should be in line with the 2021-2025 Sahrawis Education strategy integrating child protection components. The initial duration for actions on Education in Emergencies is 24 months and covers full academic year(s).

Livelihoods

DG ECHO may consider supporting small-scale livelihood initiatives with as prerequisite the realisation of a sound lesson learnt report on ongoing and past livelihood projects in the camp. Would the survey report demonstrate the potential for livelihoods activities including Income Generating Activities, such projects would be considered if sustained by sound feasibility study (market analysis, business plan, ...).

Specific considerations include:

- Focus on livelihood support at the household level or to a limited number of households
- Define the expected level of livelihood's contribution to household's basic needs and the timeframe that would be required for beneficiaries to reach about 50% of self-sufficiency considering seasonality and all other elements to guide the calendar of activities for effective and timely assistance.
- It is encouraged to undertake household livelihood profiling to inform the modalities of support.
- The choice of livelihoods shall be informed by: i) a comprehensive market analysis including the availability of technically sound equipment on the local market and access to post-sale assistance; ii) a risk analysis of the potential impact of markets' disruption; iii) a basic business plan with a timeframe to reach the self-reliance of the beneficiary; iv) a protection risk analysis including sociocultural acceptance and risk linked to the access to productive assets.
- A monitoring framework measuring the progress of the recovered economic capacity of the household
- Environmentally harmful livelihoods activities will not be supported.

DG ECHO prioritises a cash+ approach that combines cash transfers with productive assets, inputs, and/or technical training to enhance the livelihoods and productive capacities of targeted households. Soft conditionalities might be considered in case of subsequent instalments. Partners are strongly encouraged to include a detailed learning and documentation component, test different approaches (e.g., volume of assistance, beneficiaries' livelihood profiles, productive contexts, etc.), and document the impact of the intervention with an aim of future upscaling of successful approaches and transfer cases towards development operations.

Shelter & Settlement

Project proposals providing shelter and the provision of Non-Food Items (NFI) will be considered *only* in case of response to an impact of severe natural hazard. They need to be in line with DG ECHO Shelter and Settlement thematic policy.

For 2025, DG ECHO operational guidelines for the Syrian and Sub-Saharan refugees in Egypt are as follows:

I. Horizontal mandatory requirements

- ✓ All actions will have to ensure a meaningful and equitable “One Refugee approach”. Beneficiary selection should be based on sound vulnerability analysis and not status.
- ✓ Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus: DG ECHO partners will be required to follow and support in-country discussions on operationalising the Nexus, including the initiatives launched by the Government of Egypt. Partners are encouraged to include Nexus related activities in their proposals.
- ✓ Coordination among humanitarian actors, advocacy, and visibility remain important to raise the profile of the humanitarian dimension of the refugee situation in Egypt and to attract development/stabilization donors. DG ECHO will consider including specific humanitarian advocacy within all proposed actions. Enhanced coordination and advocacy shall aim at redressing the overall inequitable response based on nationality. Coordination will also be of the essence to promote the operationalization of the Nexus framework.
- ✓ Partners in all sectors should ensure compliance with protection mainstreaming elements in project design and implementation.
- ✓ Inter-sectoral coordination should be strengthened to ensure timely and appropriate referrals across sectors.

II. Sectorial requirements

Education in Emergencies (EiE)

DG ECHO will support interventions that help vulnerable refugee children/adolescents to successfully enter and be retained in accredited, formal education. This may involve non-formal education to provide pathways for out of school children or support to directly access accredited, formal schools, based on sound analysis of education need linked to outcome. DG ECHO will support initiatives aimed at increasing the inclusion of refugees within the Egyptian education system (starting with refugees’ access to information); such approaches will need to strictly demonstrate do no harm.

Support to refugee community schools will be considered, with focus on enhancing quality in line with Working Group standards and school improvement planning approaches, including attention to learning outcomes, completion, progression. Support to Working Group coordination will be considered, as justified. The initial duration of all actions should be 24 months and should be aligned with the school year. Coordination with development partners, other EU and donor instruments, the Egyptian Ministry of Education and relevant line ministries, the Joint platform for Migrants and Refugees, together with sector and refugee working groups, must be specifically addressed in proposals, as well as due attention paid to meaningful consultation process with the beneficiaries and key Education stakeholders.

All proposals shall be in line with the interagency Education Strategy for refugees and asylum seekers and its action plan and contribute to its implementation, in coordination with the Education Working Group and following a ‘joint programming’ approach. Participation in thematic working groups, including piloting, modelling of approaches, is to be considered. Partners will be required to conduct joint advocacy activities and participate to the joint resource mobilisation strategy.

Partners are strongly encouraged to integrate child protection services within their proposed EiE intervention, with particular attention to unaccompanied children and including psychosocial support (PSS), mitigation of GBV risks in educational facilities (in line with the Education/GBV/CP multi-sectoral Task Force) and referral to specialized child protection services: beneficiaries should be the same children, activities should be school-based, and the purpose of the protection intervention should be to support the return or the retention of the affected children into education activities

Basic Needs Approach

Considering the continuing socio-economic crisis, and the recent large and continuing arrival of people fleeing the conflict in Sudan, DG ECHO will continue to fund multipurpose cash transfers (MPCT) to address the basic needs of the most socio-vulnerable beneficiaries based on a full-fledged one refugee approach and robust needs analysis. The targeting criteria must delink from the status-based approach and strictly follow the socio-economic vulnerability criteria.

Innovative pilot projects promoting venues to initiate the formulation of a Nexus approach in linking refugee cash transfers to the Government-led social protection system shall be considered.

Where assistance is to be delivered in the form of cash transfers, 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. All cash interventions should comply with the new DG ECHO cash transfers thematic policy, including the sector-specific considerations in Annex 2 of that document.

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

The sectoral (e.g., protection, education, Food Security and Livelihoods) and multisector outcomes of multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) should be monitored against internationally accepted norms in a consistent way and should comply with the cross-cutting and sector-specific Grand Bargain MPC outcome indicators²⁸. Markets should consistently be monitored in real to inform and adapt assistance. In view of the rise in market prices, under the leadership of the Cash Working Group and in collaboration with other sectors, 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/depreciation²⁹ in order to preserve household purchasing power.

DG ECHO will assess proposals paying particular attention to the DG ECHO Cash Transfers Policy³⁰ principles of coordination, harmonization, and multi-partner approach.

Any delivery of cash assistance for specific sectoral purposes must demonstrate:

- sound technical justification (grounded in contextualized evidence), including exit/continuity strategy to sustain access to services, as appropriate,
- due coordination within the sector, and with the Cash Working Group, and ensuring do no harm principles,
- lessons learnt from previous actions.

Protection

In view of the acute protection risks faced by refugees and displaced persons in Egypt, and in particular in view of the conflict in Sudan, DG ECHO will support protection including those related to GBV and child protection through integrated programming. Actions should aim mitigate protection risks and to ensure provision of specialized protection services for persons identified at heightened protection risks, particularly unaccompanied and separated children and GBV survivors. Protection interventions will be grounded in a thorough protection risk analysis.

Targeted Disaster Preparedness for North Africa

Proposed DP approaches should have a multi-hazard focus addressing all 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. In addition to preparedness in conflict and fragile settings, there is a clear need for preparedness for conflict and other situations of violence. All interventions should as

²⁸ <https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/CALP-MPC-Outcomes-EN-final.pdf>

²⁹ https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/good_practice_review_final_edited.pdf

³⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/thematic_policy_document_no_3_cash_transfers_en.pdf

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' and local actors' 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, whenever possible.

Multi Hazard Early Warnings Systems (MHEWS) play a crucial role in promoting DP: actions proposing EWS strengthening should be strategic on the interlinkage of the four components of EWS and ensure impact-based forecasting alerts reach the level where humanitarian actors operate.

For North Africa, ECHO will consider specific and targeted DP proposals for Libya or multi-country approaches covering several countries in North Africa, addressing natural and man-made hazards and based on a strong preparedness gap analysis. Priorities to be specifically considered are: 1. Risk-based and anticipatory actions, preferably through a multi-risk lens; 2. Preparedness for conflict/displacement and in fragile settings; 3. Climate and environmental resilience; 4. Urban preparedness. ECHO encourages projects that ensure strengthening of rapid emergency response capacity to national and local NGOs, and community-based organisations in potential hot spot areas, strengthening early warning/alert systems and ensuring a timely, measured and localised response to different disasters that might arise in Libya and neighbouring countries. Linkages with on-going EU funded actions are encouraged.