



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL HUMANITARIAN AID AND CIVIL PROTECTION - ECHO

Emergency Support Financing Decision

Operational Priorities¹

The activities proposed hereafter are conditional upon the necessary appropriations being made available from the 2016 general budget of the European Union

The purpose of these Emergency Support Operational Priorities (ESOP) is to serve as an information tool for Directorate-General 'Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection' (ECHO) partners and to assist them in the preparation of their proposals. The provisions of the Financing Decision ECHO/-EU/BUD/2016/01000 and of the General Conditions of the Agreements to be concluded with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

Title: Commission Decision on the financing of emergency support within the Union from the 2016 general budget

Description: Provision of emergency support within the Union

Location of action: European Union Member States

Amount of Decision: EUR 300 000 000²

Decision reference number: ECHO/-EU/BUD/2016/01000

0. Major changes since the previous version of the ESOP

Since the launch of the first assessment round in March, the number of new arrivals in Greece has substantially decreased following the closure of the border with the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia and the implementation of the March 18th EU-Turkey Statement. However, an estimated 57 000 refugees/migrants still remain in Greece, currently hosted in about 40 formal and informal camps on the mainland and on islands. Idomeni camp has been evacuated and other informal camps will follow. Currently the living conditions for the refugees/migrants vary significantly from one place to another. In some camps conditions are sub-standard with needs remaining high in terms of food, non-food items, protection, medical care, WASH, education and shelter. On the islands, humanitarian gaps have been identified inside and outside of the reception facilities.

Additional funding up to EUR 214 000 000 is foreseen, with EUR 16 000 000 immediately available; the disbursement of the remaining amount is conditional upon the necessary appropriations being made

¹ The ESOP will be published in APPEL, distributed widely to stakeholders and published on the internet.

² This includes 297 000 000 from the operational budget and 3 000 000 from the administrative budget.

available from the 2016 general budget of the European Union. The first priorities are the upgrading of camp facilities both in the medium and/or long term (without excluding short term emergency repairs) or new facilities, including provision of communal and/or individual kitchens, as well as provision of food aid complementary to the one provided by the Greek Authorities. Winterisation (blankets, warm clothing, heating systems etc.) adapted to the location of each camp site is a priority that needs to be considered at this stage. Longer term accommodation, including rental schemes will be supported and should be further explored. Non-formal education and the situation of the unaccompanied minors is also a priority. Protection is a transversal issue to be addressed in all actions. On the islands, funding can be used to intervene in case of humanitarian emergencies to ensure dignity and protection provided that the funding is not used for return and/or readmission programmes.

Specific assessment criteria for the projects to be implemented under the revised ESOP are outlined in Section 4.

1 Emergency Support context, needs and risks

1.1 Situation and context

Between January 2015 and February 2016, over 1.1 million people – refugees and migrants³ – made their way to the European Union, either escaping conflict in their countries of origin or in search of a better and safer life. The majority of these people used the Western Balkan migratory route, reaching the Greek islands by boat from Turkey, then continued to the mainland and the northern border of Greece and crossing into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and then onwards until eventually reaching central and northern Europe. Despite harsh winter conditions, the number of people reaching EU shores in 2016 has been ten times greater than the figure registered during the same period in 2015⁴.

However, since border controls between countries have tightened, thousands of people are now stranded in Greece. Since 9 March, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has completely closed its borders to any undocumented person. Therefore, a large number of people are currently waiting under difficult conditions at the border in northern Greece, hoping that the border will eventually reopen.

At this stage, with the closure of the northern border with former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, there are already upwards of 50 000 refugees in Greece, while UNHCR estimates a total of 100 000 people⁵. According to UNHCR, the total number of arrivals in Greece from 1 Jan - 20 March 2016 is 147 437, including 22,956 in March alone⁶. Arrivals to Greece in February saw a daily average of some 2 000 persons. 49% of the people arriving are from Syria, 26 % from Afghanistan, 16 % from Iraq, 3 % each from Iran and from Pakistan. The latest statistics indicate that 59 % of arrivals in 2016 are women and children⁷.

After what is often a perilous journey, people enter Greece via the sea borders (main points of arrival are the islands of Lesbos, Chios, Kos, Leros and Samos). They are first registered in one of the five Hotspots on these islands Greek. Hotspots were established following the adoption of the European Agenda on Migration on 13 May 2015 and are part of the immediate action to support frontline Member States which are facing disproportionate migratory pressures at the EU's external borders. The European Asylum

³ In the context of this document, reference to refugees and migrants includes asylum seekers.

⁴ UNHCR, in COM(2016) 116, 02/03/2016

⁵ UNHCR Emergency Response Plan 28/2/2016

⁶ UNHCR refugee/migrant emergency response Mediterranean <http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/country.php?id=83>

⁷ UNHCR refugee/migrant emergency response Mediterranean <http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/country.php?id=83>

Support Office (EASO), EU Border Agency (Frontex), EU Police Cooperation Agency (Europol) and EU Judicial Cooperation Agency (Eurojust) work on the ground with national and local authorities of the frontline Member States to help to fulfil their obligations under EU law and swiftly identify, register and fingerprint incoming people. There are currently four hotspots on the islands of Lesbos, Samos, Chios and Leros that are operational⁸, with another hotspot in Kos planned. Once registered, migrants and refugees are transported daily to the port of Piraeus, near Athens on the mainland. Once there, they are transferred to the different accommodation centres in the Attica region, or they try to reach the northern border on their own. However, the build-up of people in the north of Greece has also created congestion in Piraeus port.

In the north, people who intended to cross into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are now mostly stranded in Idomeni. According to Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) there are now up to 14 000 people stranded on this site, mainly of Syrian nationality, of whom 40 % are children. Despite efforts by the authorities and humanitarian organisations, most people sleep in tents or out in the open. In addition to the lack of accommodation, there are insufficient food, water and sanitation facilities for all. Heavy rain has led to localised flooding and an increase in stagnant water, with related health risks. People, in particular children, suffer from diarrhoea, hypothermia, and croup. Dozens of people have also suffered panic attacks and hysteria after realising that they could no longer continue their journey. Greek authorities are urging refugees to leave Idomeni and seek shelter in less crowded camps elsewhere in Greece. Current plans foresee some eight regions in Greece to have new accommodation centres opened in the near future.

In Athens, Victoria Square has been a meeting point for migrants and refugees for years. With the recent closure of the border, more of them are now seeking shelter in the centre of Athens hoping to find an alternative onward route. At the same time, Victoria Square has become a strategic hub for smugglers and human trafficking networks, looking to exploit the dire situation of the refugees and migrants. Some of the new arrivals in Athens have returned from the border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia or from the Western Balkan countries. All face financial problems and are sleeping in the square until they find the means to continue their trip to northern Europe. Approximately 5 000 people are now stuck in Athens⁹, a city already affected by the social and economic crisis.

On 18 March, the European Union and Turkey also decided to take additional measures to curb irregular migration from Turkey to the EU. Both sides agreed to target the people smugglers' business model and remove the incentive to seek irregular routes to the EU, in full accordance with EU and international law. According to this new agreement, all new irregular migrants crossing from Turkey to the Greek islands will be returned to Turkey as of 20 March 2016. Moreover, for every Syrian being returned to Turkey from the Greek islands, another Syrian will be resettled from Turkey to the EU. Turkey has also, inter alia, committed to take any measures necessary to prevent the opening of new sea or land routes for irregular migration to the EU.

In response to the refugee crisis within the EU, a number of instruments such as the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), the Internal Security Fund (ISF) and the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) have already provided significant financial resources for assistance inside Europe. In addition, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) has been used for mobilising in-kind support such as shelter, hygiene material and medical supplies to support countries of the region in coping with the increased number of arrivals. Expertise in relevant areas, e.g. camp coordination and management is also available via the UCPM. Nonetheless, the needs are still significant and the response

⁸ European Commission Communication of 16/03/2016

⁹ Médecins du Monde, 14/03/2016

requires strong coordination between implementing partners and authorities. Actions supported via this provision of emergency support will complement the existing ongoing response.

1.2 Identified emergency support needs

Irrespective of the exact number of people stranded in Greece and their status, there are needs in terms of:

- accommodation (including furniture and necessary services and maintenance of the sites such as security, garbage collection, electricity, water, etc.);
- relevant services provided to the refugees and migrants such as transportation, medical assistance, translation, communication, information, protection, non-food and hygiene items and catering;
- increased support for relocation and return, especially Assisted Voluntary Returns (AVR).

The needs assessment carried out by the Greek authorities, the European Commission and partner organisations¹⁰ revealed needs related to food, health, water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), non-food items (NFIs), shelter and protection.

In case of a shift in the migratory route, assistance could potentially be provided in other EU Member States concerned, if their administrations do not have the financial and operational capacity to cope with the situation.

Beneficiaries

Potential beneficiaries are vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers and migrants transiting through or staying in EU Member States, whose condition fits the vulnerability criteria used for targeting. Support to relocation, resettlement and return schemes is not foreseen under this instrument.

Needs by sector

□ **Shelter and Non Food items¹¹**: Current accommodation capacity is still not sufficient and the places available vary constantly¹². The current accommodation capacity by the Greek authorities, which includes temporary and more permanent accommodation and camps consisting of pre-fabricated houses and tents, is approximately 30 000 places on mainland Greece and 6 000 on the islands off East Aegean. Despite additional construction, hundreds of people are still sleeping out in the open. Many temporary shelters are not equipped for long-term stay and all have reached full capacity. Sites need to have separate accommodations for families, for unaccompanied minors, and by gender. A buffer capacity is needed in Athens for those arriving from the islands and the borders.

□ **Health**: The main pathologies are respiratory tract infections, gastro-enteritis and dermatology pathologies, all linked to poor hygienic and shelter conditions and the cold weather. Young infants, expectant mothers in their final stages of pregnancy, people with severe physical or mental disabilities and chronic illnesses have increased, with most requiring medical treatment.

¹⁰ Action Aid, Caritas, Christian Aid, DRC, IOM, IRC, MDM, MSF, NRC, Oxfam, REACH, Red Cross Movement, Save the Children, Solidarités International, UNHCR, UNICEF

¹¹ NFIs are items other than food. Commonly used in humanitarian contexts, they include essential household items such as containers for water, cooking items, blankets, soap, etc. (non-exhaustive list).

¹² IOM analysis, 01/03/2016.

- **Food:** Food needs, including warm meals, are increasing as many people have exhausted their savings. So far, most of the food is being provided by the Greek authorities, local volunteers' initiatives, the Red Cross, UNHCR and NGOs. In addition, there is a lack of supplies for people with special needs such as babies, infants, pregnant and lactating women, and persons with special diets.
- **WASH:** Water and sanitation facilities are insufficient given the recent surge in refugee and migrant numbers. WASH facilities – toilets, showers, water taps, laundry facilities, cleaning items, hygiene items and promotion – are particularly needed, as well as solid waste management.
- **Protection:** People should be well informed on their status and rights and the legal frameworks that protect them. Lack of information in their own language on future options risk creating misunderstandings, false hope and stress, and making people even more at risk of smugglers and human traffickers. People with specific vulnerabilities such as women, children, elderly and people with disabilities need specific attention. Children and women account for two thirds of those crossing into Europe. A particular protection-related problem is the separation of families between borders. Sometimes the adult men of the family travel ahead hoping to first obtain refugee status in the EU and later request Family Reunification. This can create protection concerns for unaccompanied children left behind. There is a need for safe places for children and their families and specific services in particular for unaccompanied or separated children. There is an increased number of women traveling alone, or alone with children, who may have specific protection needs.
- **Education:** Non formal education is also needed for children, adapted to their age and circumstances.

1.3 Risk assessment and possible constraints

The situation on the ground is fluid as the number of refugee arrivals in Greece fluctuate from week to week. While the expectation would be that the number would increase from the current 11,000/week¹³ when weather conditions improve, with the stricter border controls by the countries along the Western Balkans route and subsequent closure of the border to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for undocumented people on 9 March, alternative routes via Bulgaria or the Adriatic Sea may develop. Contingency Plans have been prepared for the EU Member States in the region potentially most affected by the refugee crisis, in close consultation between the European Commission, those EU Member States authorities, UNHCR and IOM, based on an estimate of 100,000 being left stranded in Greece one month after the closure of the border with former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Nevertheless, **flexibility in adapting to a rapidly changing context will be necessary for ECHO Partners to effectively meet the needs of the refugees and migrants.** Likewise, the Commission will be flexible in accepting proposed changes to funded projects over the course of their implementation, in accordance with the legal provisions in force.

While UNHCR, IOM and some international NGOs were already operating in Greece prior to the latest influx, the diverse geography and numerous islands, which are also the main entry point of the refugees and migrants, pose logistical challenges, even if there is a good network coverage by sea, air and road. Joint needs assessments, scaled-up inter-Agency coordination and clear division of labor between aid agencies will be crucial.

While humanitarian principles have to be respected and impartiality and neutrality of aid ensured, close cooperation and partnership with the Greek authorities, local Greek organisations and NGOs will be

¹³ IOM, 10/03/2016.

required by implementing Partners, to avoid any potential overlap in particular in areas such as identification and building of reception sites. This will also avert any situation where Partner activities may be considered not in conformity with the laws of the host country.

While human smuggling and trafficking pose serious risks to migrants and refugees and need to be addressed, actions aiming at addressing such concerns, which are already being supported through other EU instruments, will not be considered under the current funding.

2 Proposed EU Emergency Support

2.1 Rationale

While a strong and coordinated EU response to the current crisis is needed, the direct impact on Greece as a result of the flow of refugees and migrants has been un-proportionately high, exacerbating and aggravating even further the overall economic situation of the country.

With the closure of the Greek- former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's border, the situation in Greece could significantly exceed local reception capacity if the estimated figure of 100,000 refugees and migrants stranded in Greece after one month materializes. While the closure of the border and the EU-Turkey agreement are likely to eventually slow down new arrivals, it will take some time until this information reaches points of departure.

Greece has generously responded to this unprecedented refugee crisis, with substantial EU support. Under Home Affairs Funds, respectively the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF), support is being provided to areas such as reception, relocation and assisted voluntary return. Support is also being provided through reinforced in-kind provision of assistance and technical expertise from EU Member States under the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM). However, the exceptional magnitude of the crisis and the humanitarian needs of the refugees and migrants would also justify provision of EU emergency support to complement what is already being provided by the Greek authorities and the aforementioned instruments.

In this context, on 19 February 2016, the European Council welcomed the Commission's intention to take urgent action and present concrete proposals to *“put in place the capacity for the EU to provide humanitarian assistance internally, in cooperation with organisations such as the UNHCR, to support countries facing large numbers of refugees and migrants, building on the experience of the EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department”*. The creation of a new Instrument with a dedicated budget that allows the EU to provide financial support to Partners capable of rapidly implementing emergency actions in overwhelmed Member States was adopted by the Council on 15 March 2016. Following the adoption of the Regulation and the Amending budget by the Council and the European Parliament, expected in its mid-April plenary, a Commission Financing Decision of up to EUR 300 000 000 is proposed to respond swiftly to the arising needs in Greece and potentially other Member States affected by the refugee crisis and where the emergency needs exceed their national capacity.

The strategic orientation will be a multi-sectoral response, complementing the response of the country, focusing on the most urgent humanitarian needs implemented in geographical locations in Greece where refugees and migrants are stranded and where reception facilities and accommodation are available or will be put in place. Due to the unpredictable context and needs, this could include but is not limited to

the following locations: the four hotspots in Lesbos, Samos, Chios and Leros¹⁴ and the future hotspot in Kos; current sites in the Kilikis Region; Athens; Thessaloniki (i.e. Idomeni); and Evros. The same modalities, including the Framework Partnership Agreements signed with the Commission for humanitarian aid outside the Union, will be used for this instrument. The interventions will be consistent with the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid and related EU policies and approaches including those on protection, children in emergencies, health, water sanitation and hygiene, shelter, and food, and with SPHERE standards for humanitarian assistance.

2.2 Objective(s)

Preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and maintaining human dignity through the provision of needs-based emergency support within the Union, complementing the response of the affected Member States.

Specific Objectives:

- a) To meet the basic needs of persons adversely affected by the disaster covered under this Financing Decision, i.e. the current influx of refugees and migrants into the Union, in Greece and in any other Union Member State that could happen to be affected, through the provision of multi-sectoral support. The multi-sectoral response may include the following sectors of intervention:
 - 1) Food assistance;
 - 2) Non-food items;
 - 3) Shelter;
 - 4) Healthcare, including psychosocial support;
 - 5) Water, sanitation and hygiene;
 - 6) Protection;
 - 7) Educational services appropriate to the emergency context.
- b) To support the management of the response to be provided under this Decision through the provision of technical assistance to the extent required.

2.3 Components

Food assistance: The provision of food aid is encouraged in the form of wet feeding¹⁵ only at established sites and in close coordination with national authorities of the country in question. Basic food package distribution can be encouraged at first reception of refugees and migrants (e.g. when they come off the boats on the islands). Should longer-term food needs become apparent at established sites, a cash and voucher scheme with local markets will be considered, according to ECHO policies and guidelines.

Non-Food Items (NFIs): Provision of NFIs can be considered for the established shelter facilities/sites and at first reception (e.g. in the case of Greece, the islands). In-depth co-ordination amongst partners providing NFIs will be a prerequisite

¹⁴ IOM Mixed Migration Flows in the Mediterranean and Beyond, 10 March 2016.

¹⁵ Sphere standard: Exceptionally, a general food distribution can be a cooked meal or ready-to-eat food for an initial period during an acute emergency.

□ **Shelter:** The current short-term accommodation capacity for refugees and migrants in Greece is estimated at approximately 30 000 places on mainland Greece and 6 000 on the islands off East Aegean. The capacity is neither adequate nor sufficient, with more refugees and migrants than places in country and further daily arrivals. The provision of adequate, longer-term accommodation in Greece will be considered, but only in close co-operation and with the approval of the national authorities. This also applies should shelter spaces be needed in other Member States.

□ **Healthcare:** First Aid capacity and emergency healthcare (including emergency and comprehensive obstetrics) with appropriate referral mechanisms need to be ensured at the entry points, which receive substantial numbers of refugees and migrants (notably in 2015 for Greece, these were the islands of Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Leros and Kos) and at sites on the mainland where a larger number of them accumulate (ad hoc or established sites). The existing health care infrastructure of the country affected needs to be respected when it comes to referrals and be taken into account in the design of the operation. The involvement of mobile health care units is strongly encouraged as the situation on the ground is constantly evolving. The inclusion of any psychosocial support service needs to take into consideration that people are on the move and appropriate referrals or longer-term follow-ups may not be possible.

□ **Water, sanitation and hygiene:** Provision of WASH facilities (including latrines, showers, water taps, laundry facilities, cleaning items and promotion) at established shelter facilities/ sites will be considered, as will be the distribution of hygiene items and garbage collection at established sites and/or at first reception locations. WASH facilities must take specific women's needs into consideration.

□ **Protection:** Activities related to child protection in emergencies are prioritised, such as registration of unaccompanied minors (UAM) and separated children (SC), family tracing and reunification (FTR), referral and support to UAM/SC; psycho-social needs of children affected by conflict/displacement. Interpretation services to facilitate information sharing with refugees and migrants in their own language will also be supported.

□ **Educational services appropriate to the emergency context:** Strengthening of child protection by means of programmes of child-friendly spaces and recreational activities are encouraged. Education in emergencies related programmes may be considered.

Visibility requirements

Partners will be expected to ensure full compliance with visibility requirements in accordance with the applicable contractual arrangement as well as with specific visibility requirements agreed upon in the Single Form, forming an integral part of individual agreements. In particular, this includes prominent display of the EU humanitarian aid visual identity on EU funded project sites, relief items and equipment and the acknowledgement of the funding role of and the partnership with the EU/ECHO through activities such as media outreach and digital communication. Further explanation of visibility requirements can be consulted on the dedicated visibility site: <http://www.echo-visibility.eu/>.

2.4 Complementarity and coordination with other EU services, donors and institutions

Major international effort is being mobilised to support Greece in its management and response to the escalating refugee crisis unfolding on its territories. In addition to approximately EUR 509 million allocated to Greece's National Programme under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund – AMIF

and Internal Security Fund - ISF covering the period 2014-2020, since the beginning of the migratory crisis in 2015 around 181 million€ have been awarded as emergency assistance under AMIF and ISF for actions in Greece in order to cater for the most pressing reception needs, as well as for other activities such as registration, processing of asylum requests, relocation, return and border management. For instance, in December 2015, the Commission approved an EUR 80 million programme to provide 20 000 additional reception places for asylum seekers and relocation candidates in Greece, run by UNHCR, as well as supporting the establishment of 7 000 places in the hotspot areas¹⁶. Substantial emergency assistance has also been provided to other Member States such as Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Slovenia and Italy.

Moreover, through the EUCPM, considerable in-kind assistance has been provided by participating states and delivered to Greece since December 2015, at the request of the Greek authorities to support the establishment of 15 sites and the provision of urgent NFIs to cover basic needs.

In addition, EU Member States (UK, LU, NL, AT) have provided substantial financial contributions to International Organisations and NGOs working on the response in Greece.

3 Monitoring

In accordance with Article 7 of Council Regulation (EU) 2016/369 of 15 March 2016 on the provision of emergency support within the Union, actions receiving financial support must be monitored regularly.

4 Proposal Assessment

Administrative info

Assessment round 2

a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 214 000 000, whereby EUR 16 000 000 is immediately available and the remaining amount is to be disbursed provided that the necessary appropriations are made available from the 2016 general budget. The amount awarded will thus be spread over time and may be lower than the overall indicative amount.

In accordance with Commission Decision of 15.04.2016 on the financing of emergency support in favour of the affected Member States in response to the current influx of refugees and migrants into the Union to be financed from the 2016 general budget of the European Union (ECHO/-EU/BUD/2016/01000), funding available under this assessment round may be used to address humanitarian needs where necessary, including in an affected Member State other than Greece.

b) Description of the interventions relating to this second assessment round:

¹⁶ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the State of Play of Implementation of the Priority Actions under the European Agenda on Migration. COM (2016) 85 final: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/docs/managing_the_refugee_crisis_state_of_play_20160210_en.pdf

- To address the humanitarian needs of refugees/migrants in Greece (mainland and islands) with a focus on shelter/accommodation, including winterisation, complementary food aid, non-formal education and unaccompanied minors. Protection is considered as transversal issue.
 - Partners should submit together with their proposal a 3 or 4 Ws ("Who is doing What and Where") matrix of all other organisations working in the camp where they plan to intervene.
 - Partners have to demonstrate in their project proposals that their proposed activities do not overlap with activities funded by other donors, in particular from the EU.
 - Only project proposals of a minimum value of EUR 2 500 000 will be considered under assessment round 2.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 16/03/2016.
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up to 12 months.¹⁷
- e) Potential partners: all DG ECHO partners. Priority will be given to partners addressing priority needs and/or who have a leading role in the management and service provision in sites designated by the Greek government and are already actively operational in Greece.
- f) Information to be provided: Standard¹⁸ Single Form
- g) Indicative receipt date of the above requested information: 11 July 2016.¹⁹

Assessment round 1

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 100 000 000²⁰.
- b) Description of the emergency support interventions relating to this assessment round:
To address emergency humanitarian needs in Greece.
Only project proposals of a minimum value of EUR 5 000 000 will be considered for assessment round 1²¹.

¹⁷ If the implementation of the actions envisaged in this Decision is suspended due to force majeure or any comparable circumstance, the period of suspension will not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the emergency support actions. Depending on the evolution of the situation in the field, the Commission reserves the right to terminate the Agreements signed with the partner organisations where the suspension of activities is for a period of more than one third of the total planned duration of the action. In this respect, the procedure established in the general conditions of the specific agreement will be applied.

¹⁸ Standard Single Forms will be submitted to ECHO using APPEL. Sections 7.4 and 8.3 are not applicable. Section 2.2 is mandatory.

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ The remaining EUR 200 000 000 is foreseen to be allocated in 2016 subject to the availability of budget appropriations.

²¹ As mentioned in the Regulation 2016/369, synergies and complementarity shall be sought with other instruments of the Union.

- c) Costs will be eligible from 16/ 03/ 2016
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up to 12 months.²²
- e) Potential partners: All ECHO Partners with a presence in Greece who satisfy national registration requirements.
- f) Information to be provided: Standard²³ Single Form
- g) Indicative receipt date of the above requested information: by 01/04/2016 at 12:00 CET²⁴

Operational requirements

Assessment criteria:

The assessment of proposals will look at:

- The compliance with the proposed strategy (ESOP) and the operational requirements described in this section. For Assessment round 1, in order to complement activities funded by DG HOME instruments until July 2016, Protection and Service delivery will be prioritised.
- Commonly used principles such as: quality of the needs assessment and of the logical framework, relevance of the intervention and coverage, feasibility, applicant's implementation capacity and knowledge of/presence in Greece.
- In case of actions already being implemented on the ground, where ECHO is requested to fund a continuation, a visit of the ongoing action may be conducted to determine the feasibility and quality of the Action proposed.

Operational guidelines:

In the design of their operation, ECHO partners need to take into account ECHO policies and guidelines. **The humanitarian principles** of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, in line with the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, and strict adherence to a "**do no harm**" approach remain paramount. Partners should provide specific information on their active engagement in **coordination**: participation in coordination mechanisms at different levels, not only in terms of meetings but also in terms of joint field assessments and engagement in technical groups and joint planning activities. The partners should actively engage with the relevant local authorities and, when feasible and appropriate, stipulate co-ordination in Memoranda of Understanding.

²² If the implementation of the actions envisaged in this Decision is suspended due to force majeure or any comparable circumstance, the period of suspension will not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the emergency support actions. Depending on the evolution of the situation in the field, the Commission reserves the right to terminate the Agreements signed with the partner organisations where the suspension of activities is for a period of more than one third of the total planned duration of the action. In this respect, the procedure established in the general conditions of the specific agreement will be applied.

²³ Standard Single Forms will be submitted to ECHO using APPEL. Sections 7.4 and 8.3 are not applicable. Section 2.2 is mandatory.

²⁴ 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.

ECHO Visibility

Partners will be expected to ensure full compliance with **visibility** requirements and to acknowledge the funding role of and partnership with the EU/ECHO, as set out in the applicable contractual arrangements, namely the following:

- The communication and visibility articles of the General Conditions annexed to the Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs) concluded with non-governmental organizations or international organizations or in the General Conditions for Delegation Agreements concluded in the framework of the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) with the UN.
- Specific visibility requirements agreed-upon in the Single Form, forming an integral part of individual agreements:
 - Section 9.1.A, Standard visibility in the field, including **prominent display of the EU humanitarian aid visual identity on all projects sites and on EU funded relief items and equipment** (see below) ; derogations are only possible where visibility activities may harm the implementation of the Action or the safety of the staff of the partner, staff of the Implementing partners, the safety of beneficiaries or the local community and provided that they have been explicitly agreed-upon in the individual agreements.
 - Section 9.1.B, Standard visibility recognizing the EU funding through activities such as media outreach, social media engagement and provision of photos stories and blogs; every partner is expected to choose at least 4 out of 7 requirements. If no requirements are selected, a project-specific derogation based on security concerns is needed.
 - Section 9.2. Above standard visibility; applicable if requested and if agreed with ECHO based on a dedicated communication plan prior to signature.

This is the EU humanitarian aid visual identity to be used in a project related visibility and communication actions (applicable in English and in the language of the Member State concerned, e.g. Greek):



Further explanation of visibility requirements and reporting as well as best practices and examples can be consulted on the dedicated ECHO visibility site which also features the visual identity in downloadable and scalable formats: <http://www.echo-visibility.eu/>.