

2. FINANCIAL INFO

Indicative Allocation³: EUR 72.5 million of which an indicative amount of EUR 5.5 million for Education in Emergencies.

In line with DG ECHO's commitment to the Grand Bargain, pilot programmatic partnerships have been launched in 2020 with a limited number of partners (in direct management). An indicative amount of EUR 4 373 000 is earmarked for the second year of implementation of these programmatic partnerships in the Great Lakes. What is more, new pilot programmatic partnerships could be envisaged with partners in indirect management. Part of this HIP may therefore be awarded to these new pilot programmatic partnerships.

Breakdown per Actions as per Worldwide Decision (*in euros*):

Country /Region	Action (a)		Action (c) – Disaster Preparedness	TOTAL
	Man-made crises and natural disasters	Education in Emergencies		
Congo			1 500 000	1 500 000
DR Congo	53 000 000	4 500 000	1 500 000	59 000 000
Burundi	5 250 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	7 250 000
Rwanda	1 250 000			1 250 000
Tanzania	3 500 000			3 500 000
TOTAL	63 000 000	5 500 000	4 000 000	72 500 000

3. PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT

a) Co-financing

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

b) Financial support to third parties (implementing partners)

Pursuant to Art. 204 FR, for the implementation of actions under this HIP, partners may provide financial support to third parties, e.g. implementing partners. This financial support can only exceed EUR 60 000 if the objectives of the action would

³ The Commission reserves the right not to award all or part of the funds made or to be made available under the HIP to which this Annex relates

otherwise be impossible or excessively difficult to achieve. Such situations can occur in cases where only a limited number of non-profit non-governmental organisations have the capacity, skills or expertise to contribute to the implementation of the action or are established in the country of operation or in the region(s) where the action takes place.

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

c) Alternative arrangements

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

d) Field office costs

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

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

and

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

3.1. Administrative info

Allocation round 1 is divided into six sub-rounds. Assessment and selection of funding requests will take place at the same time.

Allocation round 1.A

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 37 million.⁴
- b) Humanitarian aid interventions relating to the Great Lakes' region, in particular the DRC.

⁴ Including budget allocations to Programmatic Partnership pilot projects in the DRC.

Allocation round 1.B

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 7 million.
- b) Humanitarian aid interventions relating to the Burundi crisis (Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania).

Allocation round 1.C

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 4.5 million.
- b) Education in Emergencies' interventions in the DRC.

Allocation round 1.D

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 1 million.
- b) Education in Emergencies' interventions in Burundi.

Allocation round 1.E

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 3 million.
- b) Disaster preparedness action in the DRC and the Republic of Congo.

Allocation round 1.F

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 1 million.
- b) Disaster preparedness action in Burundi.

Applicable for allocation round 1.A – 1.F:

- c) Costs will be eligible from **01/01/2021**
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, in particular for Actions on Education in Emergencies, Disaster Preparedness, as well as for pilot Programmatic Partnerships but also for any other sectors identified in this HIP when duly justified in view of improving efficiency/effectiveness of the intervention.
- e) In view of the transition towards the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, the new Single Form and the Model Grant Agreement, it will not be possible to present follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations, as modification requests for the first allocation round of the 2021 HIP. Proposals will need to be submitted **as new proposals** on the basis of the new Single Form. The above provision does not apply to pilot Programmatic Partnerships which have started in 2020 and for which a modification request remains the norm.
- f) Potential partners⁵: All DG ECHO Partners
- g) Information to be provided: Single Form⁶
- h) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information:
by 9 February 2021

⁵ Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

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

Allocation round 2

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 1 000 000 for the emergency response to the new influx of refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) into the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
- b) Costs of actions will be eligible from 1 March 2021.
- c) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 12 months.
- d) Potential partners⁷: All DG ECHO Partners already present and running operations in the geographical area affected by the new refugee influx from CAR. Support will focus on emergency interventions focusing mainly on newly arrived refugees with the most acute needs (and their host communities), especially:
 - i. Multi-sectorial emergency response, or at least one (ideally more) of the following sectors: food assistance, NFI/shelter, WASH;
 - ii. Protection, in particular mainstreaming and integrated activities to improve the protection of civilians.

Mainstreaming protection components should be considered in all actions. Actions using remote management will not be funded.

- e) Information to be provided: Single Form⁸.
- f) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by Friday, **26 March 2021**⁹.

Allocation round 3

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 15 000 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions related to this assessment round:

The scaling-up of life-saving humanitarian operations and the delivery of emergency food and nutrition assistance in the DRC, supported by an emergency multi-sectorial response as needed, to the most vulnerable people in need – mainly conflict-affected, displaced persons and/or epidemics-affected people who face acute food insecurity.

In line with the strategy outlined in this HIP, the geographical focus remains in principle on the eastern part of the DRC, in particular the conflict-affected provinces and areas where the food security needs are the most precarious, and where the multitude of crises have created higher overall vulnerabilities.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2021.
- d) The expected duration of the Action is up to 12 months, but short-term Actions will be prioritised.
- e) Potential partners: All DG ECHO Partners already implementing European Commission (DG ECHO) supported actions in the DRC with relevant experience

⁷ Please see note 5 above.

⁸ Please see note 6 above.

⁹ 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.

in the delivery of emergency food and nutrition assistance and/or accompanying emergency/rapid multi-sectoral response.

- f) Information to be provided: Modification request of ongoing European Commission (DG ECHO) supported Action.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by ~~31 May 2021~~¹⁰ – new indicative date: **10 June 2021**, given the special circumstances caused by the seismic events in eastern DRC and their implications on humanitarian actors.

Allocation round 4

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 3 000 000.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions related to this assessment round: Provision of food assistance to Burundian refugees in Rwanda and Tanzania.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2021.
- d) The expected duration of the Action is up to 12 months.
- e) Potential partner: World Food Programme (WFP).
- f) Information to be provided: Modification request of ongoing European Commission (DG ECHO) supported Action.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by **26 July 2021**.

3.2. Operational requirements:

3.2.1. Assessment criteria:

- 1) Relevance
 - How relevant is the proposed intervention and its compliance with the objectives of the HIP?
 - Has the joint needs assessment been used for the proposed intervention (if existing)?
 - Has the proposed intervention been coordinated with other relevant humanitarian actors?
- 2) Capacity and expertise
 - Does the partner, with its implementing partners, have sufficient expertise (country / region and/or technical)?
 - How good is the partner's local capacity / ability to develop local capacity?
- 3) Methodology and feasibility
 - Quality of the proposed response strategy, including intervention logic/logframe, output & outcome indicators, risks and challenges.
 - Feasibility, including security and access constraints.

¹⁰ The Commission reserves the right to consider modified funding requests transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/priorities are not covered by the received requests.

- Quality of the monitoring arrangements.
- 4) Coordination and relevant post-intervention elements
 - Extent to which the proposed intervention is to be implemented in coordination with other humanitarian actors and actions (including, where relevant, the use of single interoperable registries of beneficiaries).
 - Extent to which the proposed intervention contribute to resilience and sustainability.
- 5) Cost-effectiveness/efficiency/transparency
 - 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?

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

No award will be made to NGO partner organisations which have not complied with their obligations concerning the submission of audited financial statements (i.e. which would not have submitted those in due time to the Commission without a proper justification) or which would appear not to offer sufficient guarantee as to their financial capacity to implement the proposed actions (in light of their liquidity and independency ratios as appearing from their latest available annual statutory accounts certified by an approved external auditor).

3.2.2. *Specific operational guidelines and operational assessment criteria:*

This section outlines the specific operational guidelines that DG ECHO partners need to take into account in the design of humanitarian operations supported by DG ECHO. It also lists and explains the assessment criteria – based on those outlined in section 3.2.1 - that DG ECHO will apply in the specific context of the HIP to which this Technical Annex relates when assessing proposals submitted in response to the related HIP.

The **HIP Policy Annex** should be consulted in parallel.

Generality

A thorough assessment of needs, gaps, and a multi-risk analysis should inform the design of the response. Supported documents, including reports have to be attached to the submission. All actions should incorporate an overall protection approach. Partners are encouraged to mainstream protection and use protection-sensitive targeting (using gender and age markers). An integrated approach should be considered when relevant. Preference will be given to proposals of a reasonable scope. Exit criteria and strategies should be defined from the start of the intervention.

All DG ECHO supported interventions must mainstream COVID-19 measures such as population awareness and infection, prevention and control measures wherever necessary.

All actions should be in line with DG ECHO sectorial policies.

Contributions to and coordination with clusters, at different levels, is expected.

Transfer modalities

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 guidance note, which will form the basis for the assessment and selection of partners, in particular in the case of large-scale transfers. Partners will be expected to demonstrate a satisfactory efficiency ratio and, to the extent possible and taking into account 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. In line with the cash guidance note, DG ECHO will expect partners to strive for segregation of duties and full transparency on the costs of implementation. Furthermore, partners should ensure that the efficiency ratio is maintained throughout the action, unless otherwise approved by DG ECHO. For the delivery of smaller-scale cash transfers, DG ECHO will assess proposals paying particular attention the Guidance note's principles of coordination, harmonisation and multi-partner approach.

Strengthening Early Response capacity

The Great Lakes' Region is characterised by recurrent man-made and natural, rapid and slow onset crises. In addition to the expected inherent adaptability of all humanitarian partners, DG ECHO will systematically address early response in all its activities as follows:

On the Humanitarian Aid Budget Line

(1) Flexibility embedded into the actions (Crisis Modifier)

Whenever relevant, partners should introduce flexibility to mobilise resources from on-going actions and swiftly respond to any new emerging shocks occurring in the area of their operations (a crisis within a crisis). Flexibility measures can be triggered to provide initial lifesaving multipurpose response in the aftermath of a rapid onset crisis; the two 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.

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 repositioning of stocks, surge staff, triggers and sectors of intervention.

When activating the Crisis Modifier (CM), partners shall inform the DG ECHO country office. If the funds of the CM are not used, the partner shall propose to DG ECHO how to reallocate the resources in the interim report or not later than one month before the end of the action.

(2) 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 options are not yet in place. ERMs/RRMs are mostly used for rapid-on-set crises. For slow on-set events, objective indicators with thresholds for engagement and disengagement should be defined in coordination with other stakeholders including the State authorities.

ERMs/RRM should be used as a last resort option when no aid organisations are present in a certain area or in case partners in the affected location(s) do not have the capacity to respond to a shock. When possible, the ERMs/RRM should come in support to first line responders already active in the area. The duration of the ERM/RRM intervention should be long enough to have a first impact.

ERM/RRM and flexibility measures are complementary and do not exclude each other; flexibility measures enable 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 timeframe required to deliver the first assistance (e.g. lifesaving response for xx persons, and/or need assessment within xx days from the alert, disaster, displacement, etc.).

Partners must demonstrate their capacity to prepare, preposition stocks and deploy adequate staff to respond to a disaster within an acceptable timeframe. Sector/cluster response plans are of paramount importance for coherent and coordinated interventions.

Partners are expected to minimise the timespan between the alert, the assessment and the response. Justification to respond or not to, following an early warning, should systematically be explained. The following indicators to measure rapidity of response are encouraged.

- ✓ *“Number of people covered by early action/ contingency plans” (KRI);*
- ✓ *“Number of days between the crisis and/or alert and the beginning of the response” (Target: to be adapted according to the country context and the modality used);*
- ✓ *“% of the targeted population assisted within x weeks after the beginning of the response” (Target: to be adapted according to the country context and the modality used).*

On the Disaster Preparedness (DP) Budget Line

In addition to the flexibility measures noted above and ERMs/RRMs mechanism, DG ECHO supports targeted DP actions under the Disaster Preparedness Budget Line (DPBL). For the 2021 HIP, this will apply to the DRC, the Republic of Congo and Burundi.

Additional information can be found in the specific country paragraphs.

All DP actions should incorporate an overall protection approach in the foreseen response to disasters and should complement the two mechanisms mentioned above.

Refugees: Protracted crises versus new displacement

DG ECHO's support for the refugee response in the Great Lakes will in principle focus on more recent displacements. For protracted situations, DG ECHO strongly promotes UNHCR's Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) approach in line with the EU communication on forced displacement aiming at engaging with development actors on protracted refugee settings whenever possible.

DG ECHO's support to the refugee response will focus on protection within a regional analysis.

International Humanitarian Law

DG ECHO intends to increase its commitment to support partners (who have the mandate and the capacity) to further engage in the contextualisation of **International Humanitarian Law (IHL)**, **International Human Rights Law (IHRL)** and **humanitarian standards** at local, national and global level, to improve the situation of people affected by armed conflicts. Advocacy, IHL dissemination among community leaders and members, governmental security forces and armed actors, volunteers, vulnerable groups, institutions and authorities involved to mitigate threats toward civilians and humanitarian interventions, documentation of human rights violations, bilateral dialogues with the parties in conflict to remind some of their obligation toward IHL will be supported. Campaign initiatives such as "Health care in danger" could be supported as a concrete thematic application of the IHL in relation to health and protection sector.

Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Wherever feasible, and without compromising humanitarian principles and immediate humanitarian service delivery, partners should apply a "Nexus lens" throughout the project cycle, and to all intervention sectors, with a view to strengthening resilience, promoting access to quality and sustainable services, and developing shock-responsive safety nets to crisis-affected populations.

In this context, DG ECHO's partners are expected to explore possibilities to engage with the national systems at different levels, especially related to basic social services (health/nutrition, WASH, education), social protection and direct (cash) transfers to households, as a way of strengthening existing systems in crisis-settings and beyond. Partners are expected to share good practice examples of humanitarian interventions for advocacy and dialogue at national level, to trigger further long-term investments by development actors, aiming at global SDG commitments.

In the context of protracted forced displacement, actions aimed at promoting durable solutions (return, relocation and local integration) must ensure complementarity and integration with existing durable solutions programmes supported by development partners; such actions shall be funded by DG ECHO only when proven to be voluntary, safe and secure, dignified, informed and sustainable return or relocation, in full respect of humanitarian principles and international guiding principles.

For actions having Nexus as a central objective, partners are encouraged to provide an analysis of Nexus opportunities such as partnerships and synergies with other programmes and actors, as well as enhanced dialogue and advocacy opportunities and coordination

mechanisms. In particular partners, should: i) identify measurable reporting mechanisms to assess operationalization of the Nexus; ii) develop a strategy of intervention with budgets over three years, under which ECHO funding would typically initiate the first 12-24 months; iii) describe the human resources dedicated to Nexus (coordination, advocacy, knowledge management, technical assistance); iv) involve the relevant EU Delegation(s) in the selection of project proposals and the monitoring and evaluation of the Nexus aspects.

DG ECHO will focus on Nexus projects in priority areas defined in the HIP.

Climate change adaptation and environmental considerations

Adapting responses to (future) climate change as well as reducing environmental degradation are highly relevant in partners' interventions. Such actions also contribute to the European Commission's overall implementation of the European Green Deal¹¹

All partners must take all necessary measures to reduce the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid and ensure they do not contribute to further deterioration of the environment, health and well-being of people living in the targeted area. Partners should take measures such as choosing materials with a lower carbon footprint, using clean energy solutions, avoiding deforestation, implementing robust waste management systems, greening the organization's logistics or supply chain, or working more closely with local actors to decrease intercontinental transport.

Visibility and Communication

Partners will be expected to ensure full compliance with visibility requirements and to acknowledge the funding role of DG ECHO, as set out in the applicable contractual arrangements. The DG ECHO Visibility Guidelines are available at: <https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/visibility>. The guidelines also explain the three main Visibility & Communication options available to partners when submitting project proposals, and the possible budgets.

3.2.2.1. Sector specific priorities

(a) Protection

In line with its mandate, DG ECHO will address urgent crisis-induced needs in the Great Lakes with protection as an entry point for all sectors and programmes in order to ensure access to the most vulnerable people regardless of status, but based on protection needs and humanitarian criteria. DG ECHO will support both environment-building and responsive/remedial protection services through protection-integrated programming and protection mainstreaming approaches.

In addition, DG ECHO seeks to improve the quality of relief aid through the operationalisation of humanitarian protection to prevent, reduce, mitigate and respond to threats of protection. Partners are encouraged to mainstream protection and use protection-sensitive targeting (using gender & age markers) across their other humanitarian sectors to

¹¹ See: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

ensure access to basic services in line with a do-no-harm approach, meaningful access, accountability (including complaint mechanisms and ‘Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse’ mechanisms) and participation. Protection mainstreaming aspects should be systematically monitored using specific impact indicators at objective level to measure protection-mainstreaming principles of the intervention:

- *% of beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex, age and diversity) reporting that humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable and participatory manner;*
- *% of activities that incorporate principles of meaningful access, safety and dignity through a community participatory approach.*

Actions and innovative interventions to strengthen protection of civilians exposed to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect will be supported including child protection and violence in general. Services could cover the following activities: (1) protection and cross-border monitoring and information management system; (2) comprehensive (age/gender sensitive) case management and/or referral; (3) mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and legal assistance when appropriate; (4) cash based-interventions (with a focus on protection needs) and individual protection assistance (IPA) for vulnerable persons; (5) particular gaps in documentation; (6) liaise with social protection mechanisms, in particular of social care systems (when possible); (7) community-based protection approaches could be strengthened through community self-protection plans against any upsurge of violence, community structures and protection networks, mapping of shock-responsive social care structures and mechanisms in conflict-affected settings (include mapping of mobile response and static response capabilities); public dissemination of basic information on protection risks through campaigns, social media, outreach and community mobilisation. New methodologies and innovative approaches should be explored to engage with Nexus approaches.

Humanitarian advocacy on protection should be embedded in the overall protection strategy of the organisation and contribute to promote protection standards and restore a protective environment for people affected by conflicts and with protection concerns.

(b) Health and Nutrition

The objective of humanitarian (health/nutrition) assistance is to reduce excess morbidity and mortality. As such, partners should assess the (risk) factors related to this excess from a multisector perspective (social determinants of health).

Health and nutrition programmes should be integrated and of appropriate quality (SPHERE and others international standards). Providing services for the prevention and treatment of severe acute malnutrition is considered as an element of basic services.

A referral system must be established, supported, structured and monitored to ensure that patients receive adequate and continuous medical care.

Partners must ensure compliance with universal precautions, hygiene and infection control measures and proper waste management.

Partners implementing health/nutrition projects should facilitate the identification and follow-up of protection issues. Reporting of acts of violence against healthcare workers

and facilities need to be reported to the dedicated WHO reporting system and to DG ECHO.

Timeliness of response in humanitarian aid is vital and an important determinant of the quality of aid. Clear timeframes and time-bound indicators are to be part of proposed actions.

Direct involvement of humanitarian organisations in the provision of health/nutrition care is mandatory. The role of the partner organization should not be reduced to administrative and financial follow-up or technical supervision.

Access to health/nutrition services must be guaranteed for all affected.

- **Health**

Package of Activities

Routine vaccination, safe childbirth, gender-based violence (GBV) and adolescent health are to receive special attention (and be reported on) during assistance in conflict affected settings. Measures to reduce neonatal and infant mortality are important as they are responsible for an important share of under-five mortality. In addition, care for tuberculosis, HIV and other non-communicable diseases is often disrupted during humanitarian crises – especially now with the COVID-19 pandemic – and warrant special attention (documenting disruptions will be undertaken).

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS/IASC) in emergency setting is not always addressed and needs to be promoted as part of a basic package of services. DG ECHO will consider MHPSS programmes through health care and/or protection services provided by specialised and non-specialised staff (Maslow Pyramid) in response to a shock such as conflict or a natural disaster as an entry point.

Capacities to quickly respond to an emergency and to main medical causes of excess morbidity and mortality should be available.

Disease outbreaks

Given the high occurrence of epidemics in the region, a timely response to epidemics remains a regional priority. Partners providing medical assistance should have capacities to prevent epidemics (e.g. through support to fixed vaccination in supported health facilities), to alert (surveillance systems), and to respond (e.g. with vaccination campaigns) to an epidemic when it occurs in the area of operations.

In case of high impact disease outbreaks, the importance of a comprehensive/multisector response should be acknowledged.

No dedicated funding is envisaged under this HIP for the response to COVID-19, but projects funded under this HIP should be COVID-19 sensitive.

Quality and Capacity

Partners implementing health actions should provide documentation on quality assurance and capacities when responding to emergencies.

Medicines used in the projects/programmes must be purchased, stored and distributed following international recognised norms, standards and should be compliant with DG ECHO procedures. Each project proposal must specify procurement plans and forecasts for medical/nutritional orders, including the description of measures aimed to ensure that

medicines and nutritional supplies are available from the beginning and throughout the implementation of the project.

The use of digital technology is encouraged. All supported health services should be reported on through the national DHIS2 dBase.

Project proposals should clearly describe the contingency measures and internal capacities that will ensure reactivity and rapid implementation.

Nexus/coordination in health

Partners should be looking into ways to complement actions funded through global health initiatives (already funded by the EU, e.g. the vaccine alliance GAVI, or the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria) and development actors (EU, World Bank, and others) and prevent parallel (substitution) actions to the extent possible, but rather assist, when arising, in overcoming (temporary) bottlenecks and/or advocacy for change.

Financial flows to healthcare workers/facilities need to be in line with development actors' recommendations and guiding principles.

Strengthening of local/regional capacity (including health systems; surge capacity) is considered as a way forward to increase response capacities. In the health context, investment in the evaluation/documentation of the impact of a crisis and the response is encouraged.

- **Nutrition**

Assessment of needs and project design

The intervention criteria for nutrition are established on the basis of exceeding the emergency thresholds for global acute malnutrition (15% or, where there are aggravating factors, 10%). It is also possible to launch operations to tackle and/or prevent acute malnutrition if there are aggravating factors (such as displacement, natural disaster, disease outbreak, etc.) and a high probability that those levels will be exceeded in the short term.

All nutrition needs' analysis must be supported by surveys, studies and other technically sound evidence.

Implementation

DG ECHO supports actions to treat acute malnutrition in accordance with the National Protocol of Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition. In the event of inconsistency with DG ECHO policy, the partner must consult DG ECHO before taking any decision.

The treatment of acute malnutrition and any related medical complications must be provided to the beneficiaries free of charge. This should include the costs of transport and supply of medicines for hospitals and also for out-patient care.

Activities undertaken in all sectors should aim at optimising impact on the nutrition status of target communities to ensure a holistic and multi-sectoral approach for preventing under-nutrition and reducing risk of malnutrition crises.

(c) Humanitarian Food Assistance

Food assistance interventions need to be lifesaving or protect productive assets as a response to severe, transitory food insecurity due to natural and/or man-made disasters.

Food assistance interventions should target the most severely food insecure as a priority, targeting methodologies – both geographical and at household level – should have food security indicators as an entry point. The use of Household Economy Approach (HEA) for community-based targeting or similar methodologies are encouraged. Beneficiary feedback and verification mechanisms must be in place.

Food assistance needs for newly displaced populations should be prioritised in the context of displacement. Immediate blanket assistance should be provided upon arrival, ensuring the provision of sufficient and quality food assistance for a sufficient period of time to allow household to regain self-sufficiency.

The specific needs of groups most vulnerable to undernutrition should be addressed; in particular, the provision of complementary food for children aged from six to 24 months should be considered.

As a principle, food assistance support should be unconditional, given the vulnerability of targeted populations. Any conditionality should be duly justified and adapted according to the vulnerabilities of the targeted group (adapted for example to women with young children) or in consideration of the agricultural season.

When using the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) to respond to food needs, partners must justify the proportion of the MEB to be provided based on a sound methodology and in coordination with other actors, in particular the food security and cash working groups.

Implementing partners providing in-kind food products should ensure quality and safety of the products.

Non-monetary modalities should be the last resort in duly justified circumstances. A thorough analysis of the response including the modality selected must be carried out.

Partners must participate in, contribute to and reinforce existing food security information systems.

(d) WASH

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions should mainly focus on **emergency response** addressing the newly affected population (IDPs or/and returnees). Structural interventions are not foreseen apart from rapid interventions (emergency repairs) that allow the re-establishment of local services. The needs of host populations are not prioritised, but can be partially addressed using the same modalities, in order to gain acceptance.

Post-emergency response aims at strengthening support to crisis-affected populations (conflict, natural disaster) unable to recover from the initial shock (camps, settlements and populations hosted in communities) or in areas affected by recurrent displacements may be considered in exceptional cases (areas which will most likely receive new IDPs in 2021). The proposed intervention must include contingency planning based on the dynamic of the crisis.

WASH support to other sectors must be aligned with these two modalities.

A disease outbreak-related WASH response must complement the health response for affected populations, focusing on risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), and interventions aiming at preventing further contamination through disinfection of potential sources of contamination and strengthening access to safe water and hygiene to affected households and public places.

All WASH sector support, including services accessed through a cash modality, must be monitored using WASH-related KRIs/indicators.

(e) Shelter and Settlements (S&S)

Any action related to shelter and settlements should mainly focus on the emergency response. The lifespan of items included in the kits must be sufficient to avoid the need for repeated interventions, avoid waste and allow their recycling once the emergency phase is over. When affected populations are living with host families, support should cover as much as possible the needs of the entire household in order to facilitate and promote local acceptance. Immediate support to newly returned people can be considered. Distribution of non-food items (NFI) as part of an emergency response intends to achieve an immediate improvement of living conditions of displaced persons and returnees. When and where appropriate, the cash transfer modality should be fostered.

All S&S sector support, including services accessed through a cash modality, must be monitored using S&S-related KRIs/indicators.

Shelter: Pre-positioning of stocks can be considered if properly justified based on the frequency, magnitude and location of the targeted shocks.

Settlements: Ownership rights to the land and property in question must be established before shelter initiatives are implemented. Prior permission must be obtained to use buildings or sites for the purpose of communal shelter¹².

(f) Education in Emergency (EiE)

EiE interventions should target the most vulnerable children, displaced or affected by conflict, and more specifically out-of-school and drop-out boys and girls, over-age children, through formal and non-formal education opportunities.

Project proposals should aim at increasing access to primary formal and non-formal education opportunities for vulnerable children, with priority given to IDPs, refugees, returnees and asylum seekers where relevant. Interventions should tackle identified barriers to education, i.e. through provision of teaching and learning material, support and compensation to teaching personnel, provision of transitional learning spaces (TLS) or light school building rehabilitation, establishment of, or support to, already existing non-formal education (NFE) programmes, provision of civil documentation required to access formal education system.

Project proposals should also aim at increasing education quality and learning outcomes and be aligned with the school academic year to avoid any further disruptions (and cover at least one full academic year). Retention and transition of children in the next school year and cycle should be measured, especially in the context of (post) COVID-19 and

¹² See: http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/_assets/files/aors/protection_mainstreaming/Protection_Mainstreaming_Training_Package_SECTORGUIDANCE_November_2014.pdf

related schools' closures. Teachers and other education personnel should be supported with relevant and tailored professional development opportunities through interventions that will also contribute to increased motivation and decreased turnover.

The provision of lifesaving skills and messages will be considered for funding only when they are part of a broader intervention and if developed on the basis of a thorough needs' assessment. For this specific component, coordination and active collaboration with agencies working in other sectors is highly encouraged.

Child safeguarding mechanisms must be established and must be built upon a sound risk analysis and should address the most life-threatening protection risks. Proposed actions should promote protection of the schools from attacks and support the implementation of the 'Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict'¹³. Integrated programming of EiE and child protection is strongly recommended to maximize the impact of the intervention in a given conflicted-affected context.

3.2.2.2. Country/Crisis specific priorities

(a) Democratic Republic of Congo

Humanitarian assistance sectorial priorities highlighted in this document have to be considered when designing the response.

In addition, taking into consideration the deterioration of the security context in the eastern part of the DRC and the increase of internal displacement and protection needs, DG ECHO will focus its intervention on:

- Supporting a multi-sectorial response/integrated programming aiming at addressing the basic needs of conflict-affected populations with protection as an entry point. This includes IDP, returnees and host communities. Projects should be flexible in order to swiftly respond or support an emergency response to any new emerging shock occurring in the area of their operations (crisis modifier);
- Strengthening early response capacity, in particular in areas of DG ECHO supported project implementation. This mechanism should be flexible, delivery and geographically focused and used as the last resort;
- Dissemination and advocacy of IHL and IHRL;
- Evaluation to inform on specific dynamics of a situation, including root causes of on-going crises and protection risks and needs' analysis;
- Humanitarian surveillance through humanitarian information management and humanitarian response coordination remains a priority;
- Initiative to start moving towards durable solutions for IDPs in Tanganyika can be considered under the Programmatic Partnership initiative.

Mainstreaming of core protection principles is compulsory in each action funded. Intervention should comply with cluster specific priorities described in this document and should include Nexus opportunities in particular with development and stabilisation actors whenever possible.

¹³ See: http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/_assets/files/aors/protection_mainstreaming/Protection_Mainstreaming_Training_Package_SECTORGUIDANCE_November_2014.pdf

Education in Emergencies

DG ECHO's will implement EiE programming in conflict-affected areas to complement other sectorial DG ECHO interventions in order to provide a full package support. DG ECHO encourages EiE and child protection programming to restore a protective and safe learning environment for children. The overall response should address the six grave violations against children in armed conflict.

Disaster Preparedness (DP)

DG ECHO DP funds, as a first step, aim at enhancing preparedness and response capacity of local stakeholders in South Kivu and Maniema for both natural and man-made disasters. In the long run, DP work should aim at increasingly complementing – and finally replacing – INGO-managed humanitarian rapid response mechanisms, with local stakeholders taking over short term life-saving interventions – improving thereby the level of community preparedness, the speed of the response (timely emergency response) and cost-effectiveness.

(b) Burundi crisis (Burundi / Tanzania / Rwanda / DRC)

For the Burundian crisis, DG ECHO will continue to support a regional protection approach of Burundian refugees and returnees to ensure they are protected at the different steps of their displacement.

Humanitarian assistance

DG ECHO will consider interventions that focus on protection of refugees at regional level and returnees in Burundi. This will include documentation and protection monitoring, community-based intervention enhancing social cohesion (refugees, returnees, IDPs, host communities), prevention and assistance to victims of violence (including GBV and MHPSS), child protection (UAMs, CAAC, child at risks/affected by psychosocial distress,), ensuring refugees access to basic services through civil and legal documents.

Food assistance will be considered for camp-based refugees who do not have access to livelihood opportunities. Other sectors of intervention (such as WASH and livelihoods) should be part of a broader protection mainstreaming objective/outcome. Humanitarian surveillance in Burundi through humanitarian information management and humanitarian response coordination remains a priority. Humanitarian assistance actions must include a gender, age, and disabilities adapted response, as well as adaptation to climate change and measures that reduce environmental degradation.

Education in Emergencies

DG ECHO will limit its support to increase access to education for returnees and host communities in high return areas in Burundi. This will include addressing barriers faced by children in (re-) entering education, such as administrative barriers including birth certificates to register for education services, school materials and equipment, and if needed, construction of additional classrooms, including adequate WASH access, in order to accommodate the increasing number of students. EiE actions must include child protection responses, including psychosocial support and referral pathways/case management where possible.

Disaster Preparedness

DG ECHO will consider actions that strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities in geographical areas with high refugee returns. This will include focusing on multi-hazards' preparedness (natural disaster, conflict), mainstreaming risk (based on a robust risk-based analysis) and forecast-based actions for early response, strengthening local capacities of first line responders (such as communities and local organisations), and strengthening the humanitarian-development-peace nexus process in integrating vulnerability mapping and risk mitigation within development programmes. Disaster preparedness interventions should mainstream protection, logistics and enhanced partnership.

(c) Republic of Congo

Humanitarian assistance

Unless a new humanitarian crisis emerges, DG ECHO remains in surveillance mode.

Disaster Preparedness

DG ECHO will support projects aiming at strengthening and linking Early Warning to Early Community Action (by improving capacity to emergency response), with a main focus on climate events. DG ECHO will focus on:

- Supporting the implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Reduction of Catastrophes' Risks at local level, by supporting the setting up of a coordinated, decentralised early warning system and reinforcing the capacity of the main actors to respond to new disasters, natural and man-made;
- Mainstreaming protection and climate resilience in all DP activities.