

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)

POLICY SUPPORT

The activities proposed hereafter are still subject to the adoption of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/ BUD/2019/01000

AMOUNT: EUR 1 500 000

The present Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) was prepared on the basis of financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2019/01000 (Worldwide Decision) and the related General Guidelines for Operational Priorities on Humanitarian Aid (Operational Priorities). The purpose of the HIP and its annex is to serve as a communication tool for DG ECHO's¹ partners and to assist in the preparation of their proposals. The provisions of the Worldwide Decision and the General Conditions of the Agreement with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

1. CONTEXT

Humanitarian needs have continuously increased in scale over the last decades, and this trend is expected to continue. In light of the growing gap between humanitarian needs and funding levels, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance is a priority focus for the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO).

In order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of European Union's funding for humanitarian assistance and the larger humanitarian system, DG ECHO support is required to ensure the development of good humanitarian policies, provision of relevant expertise in the areas concerned and coordinated engagement between humanitarian Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and DG ECHO.

2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

The Global Humanitarian Overview 2018 estimates that the number of persons targeted by humanitarian assistance worldwide has more than tripled over the past decade, from 28 million (2008) to 105.1 million (2018). The growing number of actors involved in the humanitarian space, including increasing engagement from non-traditional actors, requires a clear and coordinated approach towards effective, efficient and accountable humanitarian response.

Support for coherent and effective humanitarian action, combined with respect for humanitarian principles and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is particularly relevant for 2018-2020 when the EU/DG ECHO co-chairs (with Switzerland) the Global Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) Initiative.

The need for relevant, coherent and evidence-based humanitarian policies applies both directly to DG ECHO funding and more broadly to system-wide response. This is true for sectoral policies (such as Education, WASH, Health, Food, Nutrition, Shelter, etc.) and cross-cutting policy areas in line with DG ECHO's Grand Bargain commitments.

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

Priorities may also include new or emerging developments that affect the humanitarian landscape, such as innovation/digitalization.

Therefore, DG ECHO needs to draw upon specific expertise from dedicated centres of excellent and capitalise on best practices in humanitarian response by its partners.

3. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 provides that humanitarian aid may be used to finance preparatory and feasibility studies for humanitarian operations, as well as measures to strengthen the Union's coordination with, inter alia, non-governmental organisations and organisations representing them. Furthermore, the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, adopted by the Council, European Parliament and the Commission on 18 December 2007 and its successive action plans, call for actions which promote humanitarian principles and law, and implement quality aid approaches which strengthen partnership, coherence and coordination.

Considering the above, DG ECHO is proposing the financing of targeted humanitarian expertise and networks that contribute to the quality and coherence of system-wide humanitarian response. The overall objective is to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance and efficient use of resources.

The two components are:

1) Provision of expertise to assist policy development in support of humanitarian assistance

This includes contributions to, recommendations for and reviews of policy products under development, and undertaking specific studies and/or analyses to inform policy formulation and/or revision. This may extend to studies to review policy implementation and present 'state of the art' thinking in a given policy area and contributions to the elaboration or facilitation of training modules to feed the policy-making process.

Identified areas for the development of policy products include both sectoral and cross-cutting policy areas. Additional priorities could be defined on the basis of new challenges in the field of humanitarian assistance and disaster response.

Those interventions will be implemented through grant agreements and/or service contracts, in particular with the renewal of the current service contract providing specific expertise and an administrative arrangement with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) to improve and expand products that strengthen evidence-based assessments in humanitarian contexts.

2) Reinforce networking between humanitarian non-governmental organisations

The broad application foreseen for ECHO policy products requires drawing upon best practice in humanitarian assistance delivery. Reinforcing networking between partners is an important part of this. Furthermore, this exchange is important for promoting the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid and its implementation, as well as building coherent NGO positions and policy dissemination for a coordinated implementation on the ground.

This component will be implemented through an operating grant agreement with the Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE); a network representing 84 NGOs active in humanitarian assistance worldwide. The aim will be to enhance cooperation and coordination between European humanitarian NGOs, to build common positions and inform about humanitarian policies and procedures.

4. NEXUS, COORDINATION AND TRANSITION

The interventions outlined above are unique in their focus on support for improved system-wide humanitarian action. Actions will focus on enabling a coordinated operational implementation of EU humanitarian aid in line with GHD principles.