

ANNEX

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Operational priorities for Union-funded humanitarian aid operational priorities for 2022 under Regulation (EC) No 1257/96

1. INTRODUCTION

On the basis of the objectives set out in Articles 1, 2 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96, the following actions constitute the operational priorities for the Union’s humanitarian aid operational priorities of the Union for year 2022 and are to be financed accordingly:

- actions awarded grants and implemented under direct management (point 2),
- actions performed through procurement and implemented under direct management (point 3),
- actions implemented under indirect management (point 4),
- other actions or expenditure (point 5),
- in accordance with EU restrictive measures (point 6).

Legal basis

Articles 15(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96.

Budget lines

budget line 14 03 01

budget line 14 03 02

Objectives pursued

Humanitarian aid under this Decision covers humanitarian and food assistance as well as relief and protection operations in accordance with Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96.

The Union's humanitarian intervention may also cover those countries of a given region, identified in Appendix 2 based on known vulnerabilities, for which no indicative initial allocation can be provided. The Union's humanitarian intervention may also cover overseas countries and territories pursuant to Decision 2013/755/EU.

Appendix 1 to this Annex reflects the allocations by actions listed in Article 1(1) of the Decision to which this Annex is attached.

Appendix 2 to this Annex gives an indication of the planned allocations by countries/regions.

Outlook for 2022

Following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine on 24 February 2022, the humanitarian situation in Ukraine has reached a level of gravity never seen in Europe since the Second World War. Beyond the extreme humanitarian challenges in Ukraine with spillover effects inter alia on EU Member States and Moldova, the consequences of such an aggression are also witnessed across a very large number of other countries where food security is being severely affected and threatens often fragile stability. This leads to the global humanitarian context in 2022 being more challenging than ever before.

When it comes to the intensity, range and duration of human-induced disasters, disasters triggered by natural hazards, and crises characterised by a continuing widespread disregard for International Humanitarian Law (IHL), the situation has aggravated compared to 2021. This will therefore affect an increased number of people affected who will be in need of international assistance. The COVID-19 global pandemic has further exacerbated an already dire situation, with a severe impact on the vulnerabilities of crises-affected populations. It is important to ensure that the response to new and often highly visible crises, does not detract from addressing existing, protracted or recurrent humanitarian crises.

In this context and for each crisis, the European Commission conducts a specific qualitative evaluation of the needs of a country/region in order to gain insight into the nature and the severity of the needs. This is combined with the quantitative index for risk management (INFORM Risk), based on three sets of indicators (hazard and exposure, vulnerability and lack of coping capacity), a crisis severity assessment (INFORM Severity), and the forgotten crisis assessment (FCA). These evaluations and tools provide the framework for determining the areas of greatest needs based on which funds are allocated.

Human-induced humanitarian crises, resulting from wars, conflicts or outbreaks of violence are, the main source of humanitarian needs in the world and therefore account for a large proportion of them. In these crises, such as in Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Venezuela, Libya, Myanmar/Bangladesh, Ukraine, South Sudan, Central

Sahel, Ethiopia, Somalia, the Great Lakes region, Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and the Central African Republic, the EU's humanitarian interventions address life-saving needs and protect millions of vulnerable people, including forcibly displaced people or trapped populations, as well as host communities. In many contexts, access and security problems make the delivery of aid particularly difficult or dangerous. The needs resulting from such crises may be further exacerbated by disasters triggered by natural hazards, such as drought or floods, fuelled by climate change. The interaction of climate, environmental and conflict risks is aggravating existing vulnerabilities and inequalities and is affecting humanitarian needs, particularly for the most vulnerable populations and in conflict-affected areas. Disasters and extreme weather conditions may impede some interventions and may also require a rapid redirecting of available funds to meet the new priority needs of the affected populations. Union funding may also be awarded in response to recurrent disasters caused by specific meteorological patterns, such as seasonal monsoons, hurricanes, typhoons and cyclones or geological phenomena, such as earthquakes.

Across the different scenarios mentioned, Union humanitarian funding will continue to prioritise a basic needs approach or an integrated multi-sectoral or cross-sectoral approach to programming that aims to meet the affected populations' needs. At the same time, in 2022, the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) will further advance a risk-based approach to humanitarian action, further promoting anticipatory actions and the inclusion of climate and environmental concerns into its actions. Ensuring the protection of those affected as well as ensuring access to quality education in emergencies, will also continue to be a priority of Union humanitarian funding.

Wherever possible, efforts will be made from the outset to work with development and other instruments in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, building the resilience of the most vulnerable populations, and preparing the conditions for longer-term sustainable engagement by national and international development and stabilisation/peacebuilding instruments and programmes.

Expected results

The intrinsic features of humanitarian aid are such (which include a volatile operating environment, unpredictability and a high level of uncertainty) are such that it is in effect impossible to determine specific results in advance. The EU-funding of humanitarian aid operations continues to save lives and to cover the basic needs of affected populations, making them better prepared and more resilient. At the same time, it lays the ground – where possible and appropriate – for a smooth transition towards development aid and equivalent forms of longer-term structural assistance, including the provision of basic services by the State concerned.

It is also not realistic or simply not feasible to identify reliable quantitative results in advance, for instance in the form of the number of people receiving assistance. Any such figures would be highly contextual and crisis-specific and therefore liable to evolve haphazardly. They would also be bound to be affected by any unexpected adverse developments in the field (e.g. unexpected severe weather events, shifting displacements patterns, and the like).

Account should also be taken of the practical necessity, when required by changing circumstances in the field which might affect existing humanitarian needs or generate new needs, of redirecting or otherwise adjusting Union-funded humanitarian aid operations. Union financial assistance may also have to be awarded to new actions to address exacerbated or increased humanitarian needs.

2. GRANTS

The estimated global budget reserved for grants amounts to EUR 1 011 707 000.

2.1. Providing humanitarian aid to vulnerable people affected by disasters and crises

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) satisfying the eligibility and suitability criteria provided for in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 including but not limited to those NGOs to which the Commission, as represented by its Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), has awarded a certificate.

Member States' specialised agencies referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96.

Description of the activities to be funded by grants awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation.

Provide humanitarian aid to vulnerable people affected by natural disasters, human-induced crises or exceptional situations or circumstances comparable to natural or human-induced disasters, which have entailed or are likely to continue entailing major loss of life, physical and psychological or social suffering or material damage.

Implementation

Grants will be awarded and managed under direct management by DG ECHO.

Pursuant to Article 193(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation, costs incurred by a grant beneficiary before the date of submission of the application will be eligible for Union financing. This is because early intervention by the Union is of major importance to enable humanitarian organisations to effectively address and meet humanitarian needs in the field as early as possible when they occur or when there is good cause to believe that such needs will arise in the near future.

Pursuant to Article 204 of the Financial Regulation, grant beneficiaries may provide financial support of more than EUR 60 000 to third parties to implement actions if the action's objectives of the action would otherwise be impossible, or excessively difficult, to achieve. Such situations can occur, for example, in cases where only a limited number of non-profit, non-governmental organisations have the capacity, skills or expertise to help implement the action or are established in the country of operation or in the region(s) where the action takes place.

To ensure broad geographical/worldwide coverage while minimising costs and avoiding duplications e.g. double presence in a country), many humanitarian organisations have turned to networking through families or confederations, for instance. In such a context, the situations referred to above would imply that the beneficiary would provide financial support to other members of the network.

2.2. Providing first initial response

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

NGOs satisfying the eligibility and suitability criteria provided for in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96, including but not limited to those NGOs to which the Commission, as represented by DG ECHO, has awarded a certificate.

Member States' specialised agencies referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96.

Description of the activities to be funded by grants awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation and specific grants directly awarded.

Provide a first initial response to cover the immediate needs of the most vulnerable in the days after a large scale emergency or the sudden onset of a humanitarian crisis as well as humanitarian assistance for response and disaster preparedness to populations affected by disasters where a small-scale response is sufficient and to populations affected by epidemic outbreaks.

Sudden large sudden disasters have an enormous impact on the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable populations. In many countries, the effects of a disaster especially when combined with high levels of vulnerability and insufficient local capacities to address them, i.e. prepare, mitigate or prevent them, may have a devastating impact. How quickly needs are addressed within the first few days is critical. The acute large emergency response tool (ALERT) allows the European Commission to rapidly respond to sudden large-scale natural and technological disasters and cover the immediate needs of those most vulnerable in the hours and days after an emergency or a new humanitarian crisis.

DG ECHO recognises the importance of minimising the environmental footprint of humanitarian action, even in short-term emergency contexts, and will therefore continue to promote the inclusion of environmental considerations in emergency humanitarian interventions, based on the 'do no harm' principle – a principle that takes into consideration the negative effects of aid.

Emergency humanitarian needs aggravated by the recurrence of disasters, even those of small-scale disasters or those requiring a limited and isolated intervention, are also addressed by the funding under this Decision. This also covers epidemic outbreaks. In such cases, a flexible humanitarian intervention should be sought in order to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs and enhance at the local level the preparedness of the most vulnerable populations, in particular local communities, affected by these disasters where there are significant unmet needs.

Implementation

Grants will be awarded and managed under direct management by DG ECHO.

Pursuant to Article 193(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation, costs incurred by a grant beneficiary before the date of submission of the application will be eligible for Union financing. This is because early intervention by the Union is of major importance to enable humanitarian organisations to effectively address and meet humanitarian needs in the field as early as possible when they occur or when there is good cause to believe that such needs will arise in the near future.

Pursuant to Article 204 of the Financial Regulation, grant beneficiaries may provide financial support of more than EUR 60 000 to third parties to implement actions if the action's objectives of the action would otherwise be impossible, or excessively difficult, to achieve. Such situations can occur, for example, in cases where only a limited number of non-profit, non-governmental organisations have the capacity, skills or expertise to help implement the action or are established in the country of operation or in the region(s) where the action takes place.

To ensure broad geographical/worldwide coverage while minimising costs and avoiding duplications e.g. double presence in a country), many humanitarian organisations have turned to networking through families or

confederations, for instance. In such a context, the situations referred to above would imply that the beneficiary would provide financial support to other members of the network.

2.3. European Humanitarian Response Capacity

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

NGOs satisfying the eligibility and suitability criteria provided for in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 including but not limited to those NGOs to which the Commission, as represented by DG ECHO, has awarded a certificate.

Member States' specialised agencies referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96.

Description of the activities to be funded by grants awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation and specific grants directly awarded

To develop the first capacities of the European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC) which will aim to fill gaps as they arise and pilot new and innovative approaches to humanitarian aid. The EHRC will also enable the EU to take up a stronger leadership role in steering and deciding on the rapid delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The EHRC is expected to have the capacity to ensure emergency stockpiles, logistical support and coordination, cope with medical emergencies and cover any other areas that may be identified in the course of its development.

The EHRC as a whole will be implemented through various arrangements. DG ECHO may carry out some actions directly, while implementing organisations may indirectly manage others.

Implementation

Grants will be awarded and managed under direct management by DG ECHO.

Pursuant to Article 193(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation, costs incurred by a grant beneficiary before the date of submission of the application will be eligible for Union financing. This is because early intervention by the Union is of major importance to enable humanitarian organisations to effectively address and meet humanitarian needs in the field as early as possible when they occur or when there is good cause to believe that such needs will arise in the near future.

Pursuant to Article 204 of the Financial Regulation, grant beneficiaries may provide financial support of more than EUR 60 000 to third parties to implement actions if the action's objectives of the action would otherwise be impossible, or excessively difficult, to achieve. Such situations can occur, for example, in cases where only a limited number of non-profit, non-governmental organisations have the capacity, skills or expertise to help implement the action or are established in the country of operation or in the region(s) where the action takes place.

To ensure broad geographical/worldwide coverage while minimising costs and avoiding duplications e.g. double presence in a country), many humanitarian organisations have turned to networking through families or

confederations, for instance. In such a context, the situations referred to above would imply that the beneficiary would provide financial support to other members of the network.

2.4. Disaster risk reduction and preparedness

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

NGOs satisfying the eligibility and suitability criteria provided for in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 including but not limited to those NGOs to which the Commission, as represented by DG ECHO, has awarded a certificate.

Member States' specialised agencies referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96.

Description of the activities to be funded by grants awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation and specific grants directly awarded.

Support strategies and complement existing strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for, mitigate and respond adequately to disasters by enhancing their capacities to anticipate, cope and respond, thereby increasing early response, resilience to shocks and reducing vulnerability.

Local communities are particularly vulnerable to disasters, shocks and stresses. These cause significant losses both in social and economic terms as people's lives are not only at risk, but they often lose their livelihood and land and might even be displaced. When the countries concerned have insufficient capacities to cope with the impact of disasters on the population, aggravated even further by climate change, international support is needed to help them be better prepared. Disaster preparedness allocations aim at reducing the impact of disasters and crises on populations, allowing early warning and early action to better assist those affected.

Implementation

Grants will be awarded and managed under direct management by DG ECHO.

Pursuant to Article 193(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation, costs incurred by a grant beneficiary before the date of submission of the application will be eligible for Union financing. This is because early intervention by the Union is of major importance to enable humanitarian organisations to effectively address and meet humanitarian needs in the field as early as possible when they occur or when there is good cause to believe that such needs will arise in the near future.

Pursuant to Article 204 of the Financial Regulation, grant beneficiaries may provide financial support of more than EUR 60 000 to third parties to implement actions if the action's objectives of the action would otherwise be impossible, or excessively difficult, to achieve. Such situations can occur, for example, in cases where only a limited number of non-profit, non-governmental organisations have the capacity, skills or expertise to help implement the action or are established in the country of operation or in the region(s) where the action takes place.

To ensure broad geographical/worldwide coverage while minimising costs and avoiding duplications e.g. double presence in a country), many humanitarian organisations have turned to networking through families or confederations, for instance. In such a context, the situations referred to above would imply that the beneficiary would provide financial support to other members of the network.

2.5. Policy support toolbox

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

NGOs satisfying the eligibility and suitability criteria provided for in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 including but not limited to those NGOs to which the Commission, as represented by DG ECHO, has awarded a certificate.

Member States specialised agencies referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96.

Description of the activities to be funded by grants awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation and specific grants directly awarded

With global humanitarian needs continuing to increase, the capacity of humanitarian actors to respond has been stretched to the limit. All options to increase humanitarian capacity to deliver efficient and effective aid to people in need, increase their preparedness for disasters, and enhance existing policy frameworks have to be explored.

In line with the tenants of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid¹ that ‘(...) *supporting the development of the collective global capacity to respond to humanitarian crises is one of the fundamental tenants of our [EU] approach*’, the Commission makes humanitarian aid more coherent, of better quality and more effective by, for example, developing innovative approaches, policies, methodologies and tools, and supporting to capacity building, coordination and preparedness.

Implementation

Grants will be awarded and managed under direct management by DG ECHO.

Pursuant to Article 204 of the Financial Regulation, grant beneficiaries may provide financial support of more than EUR 60 000 to third parties to implement actions if the action’s objectives of the action would otherwise be impossible, or excessively difficult, to achieve. Such situations can occur, for example, in cases where only a limited number of non-profit, non-governmental organisations have the capacity, skills or expertise to help implement the action or are established in the country of operation or in the region(s) where the action takes place.

To ensure broad geographical/worldwide coverage while minimising costs and avoiding duplications e.g. double presence in a country), many humanitarian organisations have turned to networking through families or confederations, for instance. In such a context, the situations referred to above would imply that the beneficiary would provide financial support to other members of the network.

¹ OJ C 25, 30.1.2008, p 1.

2.6. Policy support – Reinforcing networking between humanitarian non-governmental organisations

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Pursuant to Article 4, sixth indent, of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96, measures to strengthen the Union's coordination with non-governmental organisations and organisations representing them may be financially supported.

VOICE (Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies) is a European network representing 85 non-profit humanitarian organisations that are non-profit legal persons; have their main headquarters in an EU Member State; and have a certain number of DG ECHO certified partners as active members of the network and as members of the network's steering board or committee of the network.

VOICE is a unique organisation combining a broad network of European NGOs which work in a significant range of humanitarian areas pertinent to DG ECHO's activities. These advantages specific to VOICE have been demonstrated through VOICE's track record when working with DG ECHO, and through various competitive procedures in selecting partners with such a profile.

Description of the activities to be funded by grants awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation and specific grants directly awarded

The broad application of DG ECHO policy products requires drawing upon best practice in delivering humanitarian assistance delivery. Reinforcing networking between DG ECHO-certified partners is an important part of this. Furthermore, this exchange is important for pursuing issues related to the humanitarian principles, as well as for broader policy dissemination to improve operational implementation. The aim is to enhance cooperation and coordination between European humanitarian NGOs, reinforce networking, and strengthen the collective influence of NGOs in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance projects.

The award of a direct grant to VOICE is justified by the fact that the grant beneficiary has a *de facto* monopoly as referred to in Article 195(c) of the Financial Regulation.

Implementation

An operating grant of an amount up to EUR 200 000 will be awarded and managed under direct management by DG ECHO.

2.7. Policy support – Contribution to the Accelerated Education Working Group

Amount

EUR 30 000

Description

Globally, accelerated education programmes are employed more frequently to address the large number of out-of-school children and youth, especially in humanitarian emergencies and crises.

Since 2015, the Accelerated Education Working Group (AEWG) has been working on providing guidance, standards and indicators for efficient programme planning, implementation and monitoring

DG ECHO's contribution will enable the AEWG mission to pursue the work of disseminating tools and guidance, gaining a deeper understanding of the political contexts behind commitments to accelerated education programmes, and support national governments in institutionalising flexible education.

Implementation

An operating grant of an amount up to EUR 30 000 will be awarded and managed under direct management by DG ECHO.

3. PROCUREMENT

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2022 amounts to EUR 3 150 000.

3.1. European Humanitarian Response Capacity

General description of the contracts envisaged

To develop the first capacities of the European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC) which will aim to fill gaps as they arise and pilot new and innovative approaches to humanitarian aid. The EHRC will also enable the EU to take up a stronger leadership role in steering and deciding on the rapid delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The EHRC is expected to have the capacity to ensure emergency stockpiles, logistical support and coordination, cope with medical emergencies and cover any other areas that may be identified in the course of its development.

The EHRC as a whole will be implemented through various arrangements. DG ECHO may carry out some actions directly, while implementing organisations may indirectly manage others. As such, DG ECHO may decide to use available appropriations to procure operations to be carried out by appropriate service providers.

Implementation

The public contracts will be awarded and managed under direct management by DG ECHO.

3.2. Humanitarian air transportation

General description of the contracts envisaged

Improve the conditions for delivering humanitarian aid by supporting transportation to ensure that aid is accessible to beneficiaries, including by means of medical evacuation of humanitarian staff where the unavailability of such transportation could adversely affect the timely and effective provision of assistance to beneficiaries.

Access constraints (security and logistical) are often an obstacle to reaching beneficiaries. These can be partially overcome by supporting humanitarian transport, notably through ECHO-Flight in parts of Africa, or through other humanitarian transport providers. Humanitarian transportation should also be made available to humanitarian staff, in particular in the form of medical evacuation, where the unavailability of such transportation could deter staff from providing humanitarian assistance to beneficiaries, notably in the event of highly infectious epidemics. Making such services available would also help to protect humanitarian personnel as referred to in Article 2(c) of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96.

Humanitarian air transportation may be provided either by means of a service contract or through a humanitarian aid action performed by one of the entities covered by a framework agreement with the Commission (see Section 4.4 below). Should such humanitarian aid action(s) be conducted, the use of service contracts will be reviewed and adjusted accordingly with the corresponding appropriations being reassigned as appropriate.

Implementation

The public contracts related to humanitarian air transport services will be awarded and managed under direct management by DG ECHO.

3.3. Providing first initial response

General description of the contracts envisaged

DG ECHO may decide to use appropriations available under the epidemics component of the Emergency Toolbox to procure medical evacuation operations to be carried out by appropriate service providers.

Implementation

The medical evacuation contract(s) will be awarded and managed under direct management by DG ECHO.

3.4. Public awareness and information

Public awareness and information

General description of the contracts envisaged

Increase awareness and understanding of and support for humanitarian issues and the EU as the global leader in humanitarian aid, especially in Europe and in third countries where the Union is funding major humanitarian operations through public awareness actions and information campaigns. Communication actions in 2022 will also contribute, where appropriate, to the Commission's corporate communication.

Implementation

The relevant contracts will be awarded and managed under direct management by DG ECHO.

4. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED IN INDIRECT MANAGEMENT

4.1. Providing humanitarian aid to vulnerable people affected by disasters and crises

Implementing entities

International Organisations, such as United Nations' Organisations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as Member States' specialised agencies may have specific expertise, singular capacities, privileges and access, notably related to their mandate, for effectively delivering of humanitarian aid. The use of such entities under indirect management is therefore necessary for implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid operations addressing the full spectrum of humanitarian needs, which cannot all be addressed solely through direct management with NGOs (and procurement).

Entities which were subject to an *ex ante* assessment in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a financial framework partnership agreement concluded for humanitarian aid (International Committee of the Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) or signatories of the financial and administrative framework agreement concluded between the Commission and United Nations entities.

The entities to be entrusted with implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid actions will be selected based on the merits of the proposals for humanitarian aid actions submitted to the Commission in response to any invitation to submit proposals emanating from DG ECHO (including when the said invitation takes the form of Humanitarian Implementation Plans).

Description

Provide humanitarian aid to vulnerable people affected by natural disasters, human-induced crises or exceptional situations or circumstances comparable to natural or human-induced disasters, which have entailed or are likely to continue entailing major loss of life, physical and psychological or social suffering or material damage.

4.2. Providing first initial response

Implementing entities

Entities which were subject to an *ex ante* assessment in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a financial framework partnership agreement concluded for humanitarian aid (International Committee of the Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) or signatories of the financial and administrative framework agreement concluded between the Commission and United Nations entities.

The entities to be entrusted with implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid actions will be selected based on the merits of the proposals for humanitarian aid actions submitted to the Commission in response to any invitation to submit proposals emanating from DG ECHO (including when the said invitation takes the form of Humanitarian Implementation Plans).

Description

Provide a first initial response to cover the immediate needs of the most vulnerable in the days after a large scale emergency or the sudden onset of a humanitarian crisis as well as humanitarian assistance for response and disaster preparedness to populations affected by disasters where a small-scale response is sufficient and to populations affected by epidemic outbreaks.

Sudden large sudden disasters have an enormous impact on the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable populations. In many countries, the effects of a disaster especially when combined with high levels of vulnerability and insufficient local capacities to address them, i.e. prepare, mitigate or prevent them, may have a devastating impact. How quickly needs are addressed within the first few days is critical. The acute large emergency response tool (ALERT) allows the European Commission to rapidly respond to sudden large-scale natural and technological disasters and cover the immediate needs of those most vulnerable in the hours and days after an emergency or a new humanitarian crisis.

DG ECHO recognises the importance of minimising the environmental footprint of humanitarian action, even in short-term emergency contexts, and will therefore continue to promote the inclusion of environmental considerations in emergency humanitarian interventions, based on the ‘do no harm’ principle – a principle that takes into consideration the negative effects of aid.

Emergency humanitarian needs aggravated by the recurrence of disasters, even those of small-scale disasters or those requiring a limited and isolated intervention, are also addressed by the funding under this Decision. This also covers epidemic outbreaks. In such cases, a flexible humanitarian intervention should be sought in order to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs and enhance at the local level the preparedness of the most vulnerable populations, in particular local communities, affected by these disasters where there are significant unmet needs.

4.3. European Humanitarian Response Capacity

Implementing entities

Organisations of the United Nations and Red Cross families as well as Member States' specialised agencies may have specific expertise, singular capacities, privileges and access, notably related to their mandate, for effectively delivering of humanitarian aid. The use of such entities under indirect management is therefore necessary for implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid operations addressing the full spectrum of humanitarian needs, which cannot all be addressed solely through direct management with NGOs (and procurement).

Entities which were subject to an *ex ante* assessment in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a financial framework partnership agreement concluded for humanitarian aid (International Committee of the Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) or signatories of the financial and administrative framework agreement concluded between the Commission and United Nations entities.

The entities to be entrusted with implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid actions will be selected based on the merits of the proposals for humanitarian aid actions submitted to the Commission in response to any invitation to submit proposals emanating from DG ECHO (including when the said invitation takes the form of Humanitarian Implementation Plans).

Description

To develop the first capacities of the European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC), which will aim to fill gaps as they arise and pilot new and innovative approaches to humanitarian aid. The EHRC will also enable the EU to take up a stronger leadership role in steering and deciding on the rapid delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The EHRC is expected to have the capacity to ensure emergency stockpiles, logistical support and coordination, cope with medical emergencies and cover any other areas that may be identified in the course of its development.

4.4. Humanitarian air transportation

Implementing entities

Organisations of the United Nations and Red Cross families as well as Member States' specialised agencies may have specific expertise, unique capacities, privileges and access, notably related to their mandate, for effectively delivering humanitarian aid. The use of entities under indirect management may therefore be necessary for implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid operations addressing the full spectrum of humanitarian needs.

Entities which were subject to an *ex-ante* assessment in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a financial framework partnership agreement concluded for humanitarian aid (International Committee of the Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) or signatories of the financial and administrative framework agreement concluded between the Commission and United Nations entities.

The entities to be entrusted with the implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid actions consisting of or including the provision of humanitarian aid transportation will be selected based on the extent to which they are able to satisfy the following requirements:

1. possessing extensive knowledge, experience and capacity in managing humanitarian air transportation;

2. have direct access to many air operators on short notice and bases already set up in the regions or countries where the need exists for humanitarian air transportation from which they can operate;
3. meeting a very high standard in terms of aviation safety and quality enabling the services to be provided in challenging humanitarian flight contexts. As a minimum, the action will have to include a safety and quality management system in line with the relevant requirements set out by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in relation to this type of air transportation.

Humanitarian air transportation may be provided either by means of a service contract (see Section 3.1. above) or through a humanitarian aid action performed by one of the entities covered by a framework agreement with the Commission. Any potential award of humanitarian funding to support such humanitarian aid actions will take account of any possible services contract(s) on the provision of humanitarian air transport services so as to ensure consistent and coherent delivery of humanitarian assistance-related services and sound financial management.

Description

Enabling the delivery of humanitarian aid by making available to the humanitarian community transport services to ensure that aid is accessible to beneficiaries. Such an enabling environment should also include the possibility of ensuring medical evacuation of humanitarian staff where the unavailability of such transport services could adversely affect the timely and effective provision of assistance to beneficiaries.

Access constraints (security and logistical) are often an obstacle to reaching beneficiaries. These can be partially overcome by supporting humanitarian transport where the provision of such services forms part of a humanitarian aid operation implemented by an international organisation.

Humanitarian transportation should also be made available to humanitarian staff, in particular in the form of medical evacuation, where the unavailability of such transport services could deter staff from providing humanitarian assistance to beneficiaries in the event notably of highly infectious epidemics. Making such services available would also help to protect humanitarian personnel as referred to in Article 2(c) of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96.

4.5. Disaster risk reduction and preparedness

Implementing entities

Entities which were subject to an *ex ante* assessment in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a financial framework partnership agreement concluded for humanitarian aid (International Committee of the Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) or signatories of the financial and administrative framework agreement concluded between the Commission and United Nations entities.

The entities to be entrusted with implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid actions will be selected based on the merits of the proposals for humanitarian aid actions submitted to the Commission in response to any invitation to submit proposals emanating from DG ECHO (including when the said invitation takes the form of Humanitarian Implementation Plans).

Description

Support strategies and complement existing strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for, mitigate and respond adequately to disasters by enhancing their capacities to anticipate, cope and respond, thereby increasing early response and resilience to shocks and reducing vulnerability.

Local communities are particularly vulnerable to disasters, shocks and stresses. These cause significant losses both in social and economic terms as people's lives are not only at risk, but they often lose their livelihood and land and might even be displaced. When the countries concerned have insufficient capacities to cope with the impact of disasters on the population, aggravated even further by climate change, international support is needed to help them be better prepared. Disaster preparedness allocations aim at reducing the impact of disasters and crises on populations, allowing early warning and early action to better assist those affected.

4.6. Policy support toolbox

Implementing entities

Organisations of the United Nations and Red Cross families as well as Member States' specialised agencies may have specific expertise, singular capacities, privileges and access, notably related to their mandate, for effectively delivering of humanitarian aid. The use of such entities under indirect management is therefore necessary for implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid operations addressing the full spectrum of humanitarian needs, which cannot all be addressed solely through direct management with NGOs (and procurement).

Entities which were subject to an *ex ante* assessment in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a financial framework partnership agreement concluded for humanitarian aid (International Committee of the Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) or signatories of the financial and administrative framework agreement concluded between the Commission and United Nations entities.

The entities to be entrusted with implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid actions will be selected based on the merits of the proposals for humanitarian aid actions submitted to the Commission in response to any invitation to submit proposals emanating from DG ECHO (including when the said invitation takes the form of Humanitarian Implementation Plans).

Description

With global humanitarian needs continuing to increase, the capacity of humanitarian actors to respond has been stretched to the limit. All options to increase humanitarian capacity to deliver efficient and effective aid to people in need, increase their preparedness to disasters, and enhance existing policy frameworks have to be explored.

In line with the tenets of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid that '*(...) supporting the development of the collective global capacity to respond to humanitarian crises is one of the fundamental tenants of our [EU] approach*', the Commission makes humanitarian aid more coherent, of better quality and more effective by, for example, developing innovative approaches, policies, methodologies and tools, and supporting to capacity building, coordination and preparedness.

5. OTHER ACTIONS OR EXPENDITURE

5.1. Emergency response support - provision of services by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

Amount

EUR 100 000

Description

To provide epidemiological expertise to DG ECHO (including on the spot) in support of emergency response-related activities in the event of epidemic outbreaks (Ebola virus disease, COVID-19 crisis and equivalent diseases).

The ECDC will provide services to DG ECHO based on one or several service-level agreements.

6. IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES WITH RESPECT TO EU RESTRICTIVE MEASURES

The Commission ensures that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with European Union restrictive measures². The Commission must always seek solutions that do not breach European Union restrictive measures. Accordingly, the Commission is required to channel humanitarian aid via actions and persons that are not restricted under the European Union restrictive measures.

However, in keeping with the relevant principles of international humanitarian law and with the principles of impartiality, neutrality and non-discrimination referred to in Article 214(2) TFEU, the Union must allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded access to humanitarian relief by persons in need.

Therefore, where no other options are available, the provision of humanitarian aid to persons in need should not be prevented by European Union restrictive measures.

² www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website, it is the OJ version that prevails.

Appendix 1
Allocations by actions in Euro

	14 03 01 Humanitarian Aid
Providing humanitarian aid to vulnerable people affected by natural disasters, man-made crises or exceptional situations or circumstances comparable to natural or man-made disasters, which have entailed or are likely to continue entailing major loss of life, physical and psychological or social suffering or material damage.	EUR 1 844 073 874
Provide a first initial response to cover the immediate needs of the most vulnerable in the days after a large scale emergency or the sudden onset of a humanitarian crisis as well as humanitarian assistance for response and disaster preparedness to populations affected by disasters where a small-scale response is sufficient and to populations affected by epidemic outbreaks. Support strategies and complement existing strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for, mitigate and respond adequately to disasters by enhancing their capacities to anticipate, cope and respond, thereby increasing early response and resilience to shocks and reducing vulnerability.	EUR 85 500 000
Increasing awareness, understanding of and support for humanitarian issues, especially in Europe and in third countries where the Union is funding major humanitarian operations through public awareness and information campaigns.	EUR 1 650 000
Improving the conditions for delivering humanitarian aid by supporting transport services to ensure that aid is accessible to beneficiaries, including by means of medical evacuation of humanitarian staff where the unavailability of such transport services could adversely affect the timely and effective provision of assistance to beneficiaries.	EUR 18 000 000
	14 03 02 Disaster Preparedness
Supporting strategies and complementing existing strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for, mitigate and respond adequately to natural disasters by enhancing their capacities to cope and respond, thereby increasing early response and resilience to shocks and reducing vulnerability.	EUR 71 000 000
Enhancing policy frameworks and partnerships in the field of Disaster Preparedness and Early Action, through the implementation of new and innovative approaches in regions/countries.	EUR 5 500 000

Appendix 2
Indicative allocations by regions/countries 2022 (in euros)

Budget overview:

Humanitarian aid budget allocated to actions -140301	EUR 1 918 739 513
Disaster preparedness budget - 140302	EUR 76 500 000
Operational Reserve	EUR 30 484 361
Total Budget	EUR 2 025 723 874

REGIONS/COUNTRIES	140301 Humanitarian aid	Countries with proposed humanitarian aid interventions at the outset	Countries without initial allocation	140302 Disaster prevention, disaster risk reduction and preparedness	Countries with proposed allocation for Disaster prevention, disaster risk reduction and preparedness	TOTAL
WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA						
West Africa	EUR 113 920 000	Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger	Benin, Cabo Verde, Ivory Coast, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo	EUR 6 000 000	Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger and regional West Africa	EUR 119 920 000
Central Africa	EUR 117 500 000	Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic and Nigeria	Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tomé and Príncipe	EUR 6 500 000	Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic and Nigeria	EUR 124 000 000
TOTAL WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA	EUR 231 420 000			EUR 12 500 000		EUR 243 920 000
NORTH AFRICA						
North Africa	EUR 17 000 000	Algeria, Libya and Egypt	Morocco, Tunisia	EUR 1 000 000	Libya	EUR 18 000 000
TOTAL NORTH AFRICA	EUR 17 000 000			EUR 1 000 000		EUR 18 000 000
UPPER NILE BASIN, HORN of AFRICA, GREAT LAKES, SOUTHERN AFRICA, INDIAN OCEAN						
Upper Nile Basin	EUR 137 200 000	Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda		EUR 4 500 000	Sudan and Uganda	EUR 141 700 000
Horn of Africa	EUR 133 000 000	Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia	Eritrea	EUR 1 500 000	Somalia	EUR 134 500 000
Democratic Republic of Congo and Great Lakes region	EUR 52 000 000	Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania	Republic of Congo, Zambia	EUR 1 000 000	Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania	EUR 53 000 000
Southern Africa and Indian Ocean	EUR 29 000 000	Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe	Angola Botswana, Comoros Islands, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa and Zimbabwe	EUR 9 000 000	Botswana, Comoros Islands, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa and Zimbabwe	EUR 38 000 000
TOTAL UPPER NILE BASIN, HORN of AFRICA, GREAT LAKES, SOUTHERN AFRICA, INDIAN OCEAN	EUR 351 200 000			EUR 16 000 000		EUR 367 200 000
MIDDLE EAST						
Palestine*	EUR 23 480 000	Palestine		EUR 2 000 000	Palestine	EUR 25 480 000
Iraq crisis	EUR 19 000 000	Iraq		EUR 1 000 000	Iraq	EUR 20 000 000
Syria regional crisis	EUR 216 500 000	Syria, Lebanon and Jordan		EUR 1 000 000	Syria, Lebanon and Jordan	EUR 217 500 000
Yemen	EUR 135 000 000	Yemen			Yemen	EUR 135 000 000
TOTAL MIDDLE EAST	EUR 393 980 000			EUR 4 000 000		EUR 397 980 000
TURKEY						
Turkey	EUR 125 000 000	Turkey				EUR 125 000 000
TOTAL TURKEY	EUR 125 000 000			EUR 0		EUR 125 000 000

* This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

REGIONS/COUNTRIES	140301 Humanitarian aid	Countries with proposed humanitarian aid interventions at the outset	Countries without initial allocation	140302 Disaster prevention, disaster risk reduction and preparedness	Countries with proposed allocation for Disaster prevention, disaster risk reduction and preparedness	TOTAL
UKRAINE, WESTERN BALKANS AND CAUCASUS						
Ukraine & Eastern Neighbourhood	EUR 354 511 913	Ukraine**, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Caucasus, Balkans			EUR 354 511 913
TOTAL UKRAINE, WESTERN BALKANS AND CAUCASUS	EUR 354 511 913			EUR 0		EUR 354 511 913
SOUTH ASIA & PACIFIC						
South-West and Central Asia	EUR 107 057 600	Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan	Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan	EUR 4 000 000	Iran, Pakistan	EUR 111 057 600
South, East, South-East Asia and the Pacific	EUR 75 960 000	Bangladesh, Myanmar, Philippines and regional Rohingya Crisis	South Asia (India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives), East and South- East Asia (ASEAN Member States, Timor Leste, China, Mongolia and DPRK), Pacific region including OCT.	EUR 15 500 000	Bangladesh, Philippines, Nepal, Myanmar, Regional South-East Asia	EUR 91 460 000
TOTAL SOUTH ASIA & PACIFIC	EUR 183 017 600			EUR 19 500 000		EUR 202 517 600
CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA, CARIBBEAN						
Central & South America, Caribbean	EUR 63 960 000	Colombia, Venezuela, Haiti regional Central America, South America and Caribbean	Caribbean countries including OCT;Other Central American countries (Panama Costa Rica, Belize), Mexico; South American countries, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Brazil, Argentina	EUR 18 000 000	Haiti, Regional Caribbean including OCT, Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua) including Regional Central America; South America (including among others - Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru) as well as Regional South America, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil and Argentina	EUR 81 960 000
TOTAL CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA, CARIBBEAN	EUR 63 960 000			EUR 18 000 000		EUR 81 960 000
WORLDWIDE						
Response to sudden onset emergencies	EUR 85 500 000	ALERT, Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and Forecast-based Action (FbA), Epidemics and Small Scale Response, Emergency Response				EUR 85 500 000
ECHO Transport and Logistics	EUR 18 000 000					EUR 18 000 000
TOTAL WORLDWIDE ACTIONS	EUR 103 500 000			EUR 0		EUR 103 500 000
COMPLEMENTARY OPERATIONS						
Policy Support toolbox						EUR 0
Enhanced response capacity	EUR 29 500 000			EUR 4 000 000		EUR 33 500 000
Public awareness, Information and Communication	EUR 1 650 000					EUR 1 650 000
Programmatic Partnerships	EUR 64 000 000			EUR 1 500 000		EUR 65 500 000
TOTAL COMPLEMENTARY OPERATIONS	EUR 95 150 000			EUR 5 500 000		EUR 100 650 000
OPERATIONAL RESERVE (OR)						
OPERATIONAL RESERVE (OR)	EUR 30 484 361					EUR 30 484 361
TOTAL	EUR 1 949 223 874			EUR 76 500 000		EUR 2 025 723 874

** Including assistance to people displaced from Ukraine to neighbouring countries.