

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP) UKRAINE AND EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD

The full implementation of this version of the HIP is subject to the adoption of the decision amending Decision C(2017) 8863I

AMOUNT: EUR 26 000 000

The present Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) was prepared on the basis of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2018/01000 (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's 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.

0. MAJOR CHANGES SINCE PREVIOUS VERSION OF THE HIP

Modification 3– August 2018

The Bosnian authorities have reported a significant increase of refugees and migrants entering the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina over the last two months. Out of over 8 000 refugees and migrants, who have been registered since the beginning of the year, between 3 500 – 4 000 are still present in the country. The **humanitarian situation** of refugees and migrants **in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)**, in particular in the Bihac region, remains dire; humanitarian needs are increasing. There is a lack of reception facilities in the north of the country. Therefore, the provision of emergency shelter is a priority. The remaining allocation of EUR 0.5 million for the Western Balkans under this HIP will allow extending the support given already by organizations providing first-line emergency response to refugees and migrants, in particular, emergency shelter, food assistance and health.

The **humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine**, along both sides on the line of contact and in the non-government controlled areas (NGCA) remains critical. Humanitarian access to the NGCA has been difficult and so far only granted to a handful of partners, while needs remain significant and are not fully met. The recent decision of the *de facto* "authorities" of both entities to give permission to four UN agencies (IOM, UNHCR, OCHA, UNICEF) to provide assistance in the NGCA is an important step forward for DG ECHO partners to increase their response capacities in the NGCA. The recently improving humanitarian access represents a window of opportunity to address long-standing humanitarian needs. According to the report on the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2017, only around 20% of the population in need of humanitarian assistance in the NGCA were covered, while the UN HRP 2018 will likely face a similar underfunding.

An amount of EUR 4 million is added to this HIP. This additional amount will allow reaching the most vulnerable people and households in the NGCA through expanding critically-needed basic humanitarian services as well as life-saving activities in health, basic needs (food/NFI) and WASH. The highly-vulnerable population in the NGCA has been isolated from regular supply for over three years now. Winterization activities (mainly coal distribution) will also be covered.

The following activities are envisioned by order of priority:

- **Health:** Healthcare systems in the NGCAs are fragmented and weakened due to the lack of qualified health care staff and attacks on health care facilities. Assistance will cover support to key primary and secondary health care facilities with urgent repairs, and provision of small equipment. Where possible, health vouchers for vulnerable population will be provided, to enhance access to healthcare.
- **Winterization:** The number of households who are no longer able to afford basic winterization and other essential non-food items continues to increase. Assistance will cover coal and winterization/NFI kit distribution.
- **Basic need / livelihood:** Delivery of in-kind (or through vouchers whenever feasible) food/NFI assistance to vulnerable households along the line of contact. Provision of self-sustenance (agricultural grants) and income generating activities (IGA) grants as a way to improve economic self-reliance and food security.
- **WASH:** 1.4 million persons in the NGCA are in need of WASH assistance due to repeated attacks against critical water facilities. Wash rehabilitation will be ensured in educational and health institutions as well as emergency support to water utilities (Voda Donbassa and Luhansk Voda).

Modification 2 – June 2018

A 'coastal migration route' has recently been detected in the Western Balkans. Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has seen an increase in arrivals (around 3 700 refugees and migrants since early January). Currently, it is estimated that around 2 500 refugees and migrants are stranded in the country. The situation is considered a small-scale humanitarian emergency. The analysis of the trend for the last 5 months indicates a linear progressive increase of new arrivals.

The ongoing humanitarian response is mainly concentrated in Sarajevo, Bihać and in Velika Kladusa. Current assistance is mostly provided by BiH's civil society organizations, including independent private initiatives, the Red-Cross and national non-governmental organizations. Although several international organizations present in the region have launched some assessments within the last two months, the number of DG ECHO humanitarian partners already actively providing support and capable to scale up is limited to very few UN agencies and International NGOs. The operational coordination at Federal and local level remains to be strengthened, while the sustainability of the assistance provided is challenged by insufficient financial resources. The reception capacities at national level are limited and mostly located in remote areas. The conditions in the informal settlements located in Bihac and Velika Kladusa –are particularly challenging, especially when it comes to food supply, safe shelter, water and sanitation, primary health care and, more importantly, protection.

DG ECHO will focus on the humanitarian needs of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants crossing or stranded in Bosnia and Herzegovina, notably in the key locations- Sarajevo, Bihac and Velika Kladusa. It will aim at better coordinating the provision of assistance while strengthening the protective environment and enhancing the capacity of organizations already providing first line emergency response to the beneficiaries countrywide. An allocation of EUR 1.5 million will aim at covering short-term emergency assistance in the following sectors:

- **Protection:** Protection monitoring, support to registration and Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) are urgently needed to identify and mitigate critical protection risks. Specific solution for case management should be defined with regard to unaccompanied minors and all protection risks associated to sexual and gender based violence.
- **Basic Needs:** the population stranded in BiH has been mostly relying on food assistance provided sporadically or more regularly by international organisations and/or private donations. Coordinated food distribution in line with recommended daily caloric intake, cultural habits of vulnerable groups, and the specific needs of young children and pregnant women is required. Non-food items (blankets, clothing, hygiene and dignity kits) also need to be provided.
- **Emergency Shelter and WASH facilities:** Some Persons of Concern are temporarily benefiting from a voucher system for accommodation in hostels in Sarajevo. However, most PoC are gathered in unsafe, sub-standard informal settlements, in open air areas or in disused squats/building. Assistance will enhance safety and dignity of shelter conditions with protection sensitive minor infrastructure works, wherever possible and upon authorization from the local authorities, including the provision of water and sanitation facilities. Voucher for safe shelter should be provided to PoCs exposed to protection threats in a complementary approach with an appropriate protection program.
- **Emergency and Primary Health Care:** Currently referrals to Secondary Health Care are not in place. Poor hygienic conditions lead to an increased risk for communicable skin diseases. Medical organizations do not have sufficient funding to provide drugs, consumables and other relevant equipment. Emergency and Primary Health Care should essentially be provided through support to local medical entities, including the provision of essential drugs, medical consumables and small medical equipment.

Modification 1 – March 2018

Despite the renewed ceasefire agreed in Minsk on 28 February, fighting continues around the hotspots along the contact line. Recent assessments carried out by humanitarian agencies confirm the increase of needs across all sectors. Damages to civilian infrastructure, including several multi-storey apartment buildings, private houses and education facilities were recently reported. Critical water and electricity supply facilities continue to experience interruptions, underscoring the fragility of water and heating supply to 4.2 million people. There are also continued water shortages, affecting more urban than rural populations, and an increase of households using untreated and un-purified drinking water, i.e. in Luhansk 51% of the population are using untreated drinking water. The Food Security cluster estimates an increase of households near the contact line with poor or borderline food consumption patterns from 11% in 2016 to 14% in 2017. The lack of adequate access to healthcare affects 88% of the population, an increase from 29% (2016) to 46% (2017). Winterization needs are also acute for 80% of the conflict-affected people. The number of households relying on pensions and social

benefits is increasing, it is reported that half of them along the line of contact are receiving no other income in 2017.

The situation in the Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCA) is worsening, due to a lack of sufficient humanitarian support, which is also a result of some humanitarian organisations which had to stop operating in the NGCA. The Food Security cluster estimates that 150 000 people are currently severely food insecure in this area.

The UN-led Humanitarian Response Plan 2018, that assessed humanitarian needs for an amount of USD 187 million, was only funded by 3 per cent as of end February.

An additional allocation of EUR 5 million will aim at covering the needs of the most vulnerable conflict-affected persons in the NGCA in the following sectors:

- **Shelter:** emergency repair of damaged houses
- **Emergency food assistance**
- **WASH:** provision of basic materials for the repair of water pipelines damaged by shelling, which are needed for the heating systems; water testing, hygiene items.
- **Health:** access to health care, medicines.

The additional funding will increase DG ECHO's overall contribution and allow covering funding gaps to critically important partners that are operating in the NGCA.

1. CONTEXT

The HIP for Ukraine and Eastern Neighbourhood covers the following countries:

- Ukraine
- Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia (South Caucasus)
- Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo¹, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro (Western Balkans)
- Belarus, Moldova

UKRAINE

As of 31 July 2017, there have been around 1.58 million internally displaced people² (IDPs) and an estimated 1.7 million people have fled to neighbouring countries (mainly to the Russian Federation and to Belarus)³.

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

² <http://www.msp.gov.ua/news/13693.html>. There is a sense that overall IDP figures might be inflated – as many residents of the NGCA were pushed to register as IDPs in order to continue receiving social payments (and most of all pensions).

³ http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Alerts_15_2017_IDPS_Refugees_Ukraine_Russia.pdf. This number includes about 430 000 asylum seekers and around 1.3 million of Ukrainians seeking different forms of legal stay in the same countries.

The international community is persistently confronted with challenges regarding access to the NGCA. In the Government-controlled areas (GCA) there are administrative and legislative obstacles and suspension of social assistance and pensions. The Government's decision to temporarily suspend all commercial cargo transfers to and from the NGCA in retaliation to the seizure of Ukrainian enterprises by de-facto "authorities" further aggravated the humanitarian situation among the increasingly vulnerable people in the NGCA.

While humanitarian needs remain acute, the conflict has become a protracted crisis. There is less foreign media presence to inform political and diplomatic communities about the dire situation. This has contributed to a decreased engagement from humanitarian donors, not yet replaced by development actors, particularly in the NGCA where they cannot operate. This leaves a dangerous gap for the most vulnerable persons. Moreover, the lack of central coordination coupled with the absence of a comprehensive legislative framework undermines the quality of and opportunities for humanitarian responses.

The situation remains volatile and the humanitarian crisis is not expected to be over in the near future. The humanitarian consequences of the conflict in eastern Ukraine have become a forgotten crisis. DG ECHO's Integrated Analysis Framework for 2017-18 identified high humanitarian needs in Ukraine. The vulnerability of the population affected by the crisis is assessed to be very high. Ukraine's INFORM risk index ranks at 5.4/10, Crisis Index at 3/3 and Human Development Index at 0.7/1.

EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD

The entire region is exposed to natural hazards, including earthquakes, landslides, floods, mudflows, droughts, avalanches and extreme temperatures. However, whilst the frequency of hazards and numbers of affected people have increased, the numbers of casualties are decreasing as a result of a better prepared population.

In case of any unforeseen large scale natural disasters, as well as potential conflict-related emergencies such as resumption of armed hostilities over Nagorno-Karabakh, life-saving activities may be supported for the provision of multi-sectoral emergency support to the most vulnerable. Sectoral activities in the field of protection, shelter, NFIs, food, WASH, health, PSS might be considered on the basis of sound needs assessments.

The so-called Western Balkans route for refugees entering the European Union has remained largely closed since March 2016. Illegal crossings still continue but their number is contained. The number of new refugees, asylum seekers and migrants has been in clear decline (at the beginning of September 2017 it amounted to approximately 4,000) and emergency life-saving assistance is no longer needed. However, should there be a new significant influx of refugees and migrants, life-saving activities might be considered on the basis of a sound needs assessment.

The remainder of this Humanitarian Implementation Plan refers solely to Ukraine.

2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Ukraine

1) People in need of humanitarian assistance

After almost four years since the start of the conflict, the needs and vulnerability have evolved differently in various conflict zones. **The most vulnerable population in need of humanitarian assistance can be estimated at 4 million people, composed of the population living in the NGCA and in the areas along both sides of the contact line⁴.**

A) The Non-Government Controlled Areas. The vulnerability of conflict-affected population can be divided into two subzones:

- i. **Areas near the Contact Line on the NGCA side** are characterised by very high vulnerability. People are regularly exposed to threats against life and safety (shelling, mines), some of which amount to violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). The population (around 0.6 million) lives in extreme precarious conditions. Because of the ongoing fighting, the essential basic services are almost unavailable, particularly in the provision of social services. This population has very limited access to markets and transport facilities. Access to water is often disrupted. The overall humanitarian situation can be categorized as highly severe.
- ii. **The rest of the NGCA** is characterised by the absence of the rule of law, deprivation of liberty, arbitrary arrests and continuous violations of International Human Rights Law (IHRL). The vulnerability of the population (around 2.3 million) remains with limited access to essential services, markets and livelihood/jobs opportunities, worsened by the seizure of many companies. Its overall humanitarian situation can be categorized as severe. The situation of people in social institutions is of particular concern, compounded with inadequate level of services. Protection concerns are worrying, with reduced freedom of movement across the line of contact and suspension of social benefits.

B) The Government Controlled Areas (GCA)

- i. **Areas near the Contact Line in GCA** are characterised by very high vulnerability. The principal driver of vulnerability of the population (estimated at 0.2 million) is the continuation of fighting concentrated in densely populated areas and remote villages. Access to basic public services, health sector affected by an exodus of health professionals, lack of access to medical supplies and of referral centres are of particular concern. Prolonged exposure of the population to regular threats to life and safety, combined with general impoverishment, increase its vulnerability. Protection and access to water are also critical concerns. The humanitarian situation is exacerbated by the inability of authorities to restore basic services and by increasingly disrupted access and supply routes to these areas.
- ii. **Other areas of government-controlled territories of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts.** The most vulnerable population is composed of IDPs and returnees. IDPs are spread throughout the country but the main areas of displacement are close to the conflict affected provinces, in particular in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts (about 56% of registered IDPs)⁵. The main needs of IDPs are related to access to social services, housing and employment. Early recovery and development programming need to be

⁴ http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2017_humanitarian_response_plan_hrp_mid-year_review_myreport_0.pdf

⁵ <https://www.foundation101.org/news/20170301>

gradually stepped up in order to promote IDP integration and resilience of the affected population.

C) In addition to the above mentioned categories, most vulnerable among *Ukrainian refugees who fled to neighbouring countries* (mostly to the Russian Federation⁶ and to Belarus⁷) might also be considered for assistance depending on the humanitarian situation.

2) Description of the most acute humanitarian needs

Food assistance/ Nutrition: the current crisis has impacted on the regular local supply chain in the East and eroded the resident population's purchasing power. Access to food through markets is impeded by the increase of prices compounded with the lack of financial resources. Food expenditure constitutes around 53% of the costs in GCA and goes up to 79% in the NGCA. A significant increase of food security needs has been observed in NGCA: as many as 800 000 people could be severely or moderately food insecure; 150 000 people being severely food insecure. In GCA, the levels of food insecurity have also increased. The very cold winter period poses significant additional challenges to food security with a requirement for higher caloric intake.

Health/Mental Health and Psychosocial: Access to functioning health services, notably because of constant insecurity, have been badly affected (150 hospitals closed and around 145 health facilities damaged or destroyed). In the NGCA, due to complicated access of humanitarian assistance, there is unreliable and deficient supply line for vaccines, TB, HIV, cancer treatments and other specialised drugs⁸. Continued violence is creating stressful conditions for all. Mental health and psycho-social support services are essential. Environmental health is also a concern as well as acute safe water-related risks which regularly affects over 1 million persons. Industrial sites and hazardous substance storage, if shelled, could cause major public health problems.

Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFIs): The hostilities continue to lead to a significant level of destruction of the private housing sector and social institutions, particularly in urban or semi-urban areas. In GCA, up to 25 000 households are estimated to be impacted with light damages to fully destroyed housing. Authorities do not have the current policy and regulatory framework or the required budget to conduct repairs and address judicial claims for compensation. Projected damages are expected to be similar or worse in the NGCA due to the urban nature of frontline communities. In the GCA, housing is a concern for the IDPs because of the high costs for renting. The possibilities to address this with early recovery and development mechanisms should be explored. Due to the sharp increase in prices, NFIs in the market are still not affordable for the majority of the population.

Protection: Population in conflict-affected areas, especially in the NGCA and on both sides of the contact line, that are under constant threat of violence and insecurity, are in

⁶<http://unhcr.org.ua/attachments/article/317/2017%2006%20UNHCR%20UKRAINE%20Operational%20Update%20FINAL%20EN.pdf>. According to UNHCR, the number of asylum seekers in Russian Federation stands at 427 240 people.

⁷ <http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/where-we-work/europe/belarusian-red-cross/>. According to the Emergency Appeal of IFRC for Belarus (published on 30 June 2017).

need of humanitarian protection, notably access to continuous psychosocial assistance and "safe spaces". Legal assistance to assert their rights is essential; people residing in the NGCA face difficulties in accessing documentation (birth or death registrations) and social entitlements, including pensions. Also the Housing, Land and Property rights of the population have been acutely affected by the conflict, in terms of destruction, unauthorized use and confiscation of land and property.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH): The conflict has severely disrupted water supply and sewage systems, especially in the NGCA and along the line of contact. Up to two million people have been affected by regular interruption of water supply because of shelled infrastructure. Continuous threats to cut water supply because of unpaid bills by both parties are also of concern. Regular shortages in water supply have led to the failure of centralised and individual heating, to problems with water quality and to wastewater systems. The security situation is a major constraint to maintaining or repairing the damaged piped water network and the water treatment plants.

Education in Emergencies: The conflict has resulted in significant gaps in learning, in a lack of specialised teachers and the inability of families to meet education costs. Around 200 000 pupils and educators are assessed to be in need of assistance to ensure safe and protective schools to learn and recover. Since the start of the conflict, 700 schools have been damaged⁹. As hostilities continue, emergency repair (including WASH facilities), provision of key education materials and supplies, essential support and training for teachers and students in PSS and life skills are needed.

3. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Ukraine

1) National / local response and involvement

The suspension of state social assistance, including pensions, due to alleged irregularities and pending verification of place of residence imposed in February 2016, has placed hundreds of thousands of IDPs at risk of falling further into dire poverty and vulnerability. The humanitarian community continues to urge the Government to stop suspending payments during verification process and to delink the payment of pensions to the place of residence. The draft Humanitarian Law in Crisis Situations and other appropriate legislative frameworks need to be adopted as soon as possible and the Government's decision to temporary suspend cargo transfers to and from the NGCA (except humanitarian) should be revised. The setting up of the Ministry of Temporary Occupied Territories and IDPs and the GoU Action Plan towards citizens of the NGCA adopted in January 2017 are positive measures.

The civil society continues to play a pivotal role in delivering aid to conflict-affected people, including IDPs. However, the shrinking of humanitarian space in the NGCA, due to de-facto "authorities'" attitude, seriously hampers the delivery of humanitarian assistance in these areas.

⁹ https://www.unicef.org/ukraine/Children_of_the_Contact_Line.pdf

2) *International Humanitarian Response*

The 2017 UN Humanitarian Response Plan (UNHRP) targets 2.4 million most vulnerable among the 4 million conflict-affected people¹⁰. The funding requested decreased from USD 298 million in 2016 to USD 204 million in 2017.

Major challenges for the humanitarian community remain access, security constraints and bureaucratic and regulatory/legislative obstacles. The low funding of the protracted crisis (the UNHRP is funded by 24% only) attests of donor fatigue. For 2018, DG ECHO will advocate for a stronger priority-setting at the level of the UNHRP. The international humanitarian presence in the NGCA is still patchy, limited, and needs to be further amplified.

Since the beginning of the conflict, humanitarian assistance from EU Member States is estimated at EUR 133.9 million.

3) *Constraints and DG ECHO response capacity*

The successful implementation of DG ECHO-funded programmes will depend on its partners' capacity to access people in need of humanitarian assistance both in GCA and in the NGCA, and to implement well-targeted and well-designed programming. The humanitarian response has already been constrained by ceasefire violations, and by bureaucratic and political impediments imposed by parties to the conflict limiting access to the NGCA and the 'buffer zone'. This has been putting the safety and security of civilians and humanitarian personnel at risk¹¹. The high level of insecurity could further hamper appropriate follow-up of operations implemented on the ground. Appropriate legislation allowing the speedy and smooth delivery of humanitarian assistance is also paramount.

DG ECHO will continue to advocate for improved humanitarian space and humanitarian access at all levels and with all parties to the conflict.

4) *Envisaged DG ECHO response and expected results of humanitarian aid interventions.*

DG ECHO will focus its intervention on helping the most vulnerable people with a priority focussed on the following two categories (by order of priority):

- a) **The population living along the contact line both in the GCA and the NGCA** and subsequently most directly affected by the fighting. This caseload is estimated at 0.8 million people. DG ECHO will strive to cover needs in the most conflict affected areas (albeit with paying necessary attention to security considerations).

¹⁰ http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/humanitarian_response_plan_2017_eng.pdf

¹¹ From July 2015 access to the NGCA for international aid agencies has been extremely difficult if not impossible due to the necessity to register in the NGCA with the de-facto local authorities. Almost all agencies had to suspend their activities since then jeopardizing humanitarian response in these priority areas. DG ECHO is following-up this file at all levels and is advocating for the immediate resumption of humanitarian activities in the NGCA.

- b) The **particularly vulnerable resident population in the NGCA outside the contact line**, which is estimated to be at 2.3 million people.¹²

DG ECHO might also consider providing some assistance to refugees who have fled the conflict areas, if pockets of extreme vulnerability from a humanitarian and protection perspectives are identified. IDPs outside the NGCA and the contact line area should be covered in the coming period by recovery and development actors, including the Government, through regular social safety nets and/or targeted social protection and recovery schemes.

DG ECHO's intervention will take place in line with the EU Joint Humanitarian and Development Framework (JHDF) prepared together with other EU services, which has identified synergies notably in the sectors of human security, including housing and rehabilitation of critical infrastructure; economic development and support to livelihoods; and health. Within this framework, DG ECHO will support **integrated interventions** targeting urgent and life-saving humanitarian needs. Considering funding limitations and limited humanitarian access to the NGCA, DG ECHO will prioritize the following sectors by ranking order:

- a. **Humanitarian Food Assistance:** When basic-needs assistance through MPCT or livelihood approach is not feasible, DG ECHO will consider the provision of assistance aimed at restoring and maintaining an adequate diet through the most relevant and efficient transfer modality. Priority will be given to people along the line of contact.
- b. **Health (excluding MHPSS):** DG ECHO will continue the provision of emergency and primary health services and addressing the gaps in secondary/tertiary health care, mainly war surgery. Special emphasis will be given to expanding access to health services for those who are not receiving curative or preventive healthcare and where local health systems are dysfunctional. It will strengthen primary healthcare (fixed and mobile medical units) through supplying medical equipment, medicines and capacity building and reinforcing the patient referral system.
- c. **Shelter & NFIs:** DG ECHO will strive for the enhancement of housing conditions of the conflict-affected population, including urgent rehabilitation and repair works of conflict-damaged accommodation in light to medium categories. Institutional buildings, such as school and health facilities will also be supported. If a basic needs approach is not feasible, DG ECHO will also supply non-food items such as wood stoves, firewood, coal, heaters, warm blankets and winter clothes etc.

DG ECHO will support **initiatives designed to address protection risks and violations in an integrated manner** through other programme activities and protection sensitive targeting. Other needs, such as dedicated Protection activities, WASH, Education in Emergencies and support for livelihoods may also be considered. In general, DG ECHO will take into consideration in its response the specific requirements imposed by the harsh winter in Ukraine.

¹² DG ECHO will not be in a position to cover all population under those two categories, but will aim at covering the most vulnerable individuals among those two categories and respond to gaps in the coverage by other stakeholders.

DG ECHO will strongly support **humanitarian advocacy** activities which will raise the profile of the Ukraine humanitarian crisis and aim at improving the local and international response to the needs highlighted above.

All humanitarian interventions funded by DG ECHO must take into consideration, together with other protection concerns, any risk of **gender-based violence** and develop and implement appropriate strategies to prevent such risks. Moreover, in line with its life-saving mandate, DG ECHO encourages the establishment of quality, comprehensive and safe GBV response services since the onset of emergencies, in line with DG ECHO's 2013 Gender policy.¹³

Response Modality:

Effective coordination is essential. DG ECHO supports the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Transformative Agenda (ITA) and expects its partners to demonstrate their engagement in implementing its objectives and to actively take part in coordination mechanisms (e.g. Humanitarian Country Team, clusters and technical working groups).

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

4. LRRD, COORDINATION AND TRANSITION

Ukraine

1) Other DG ECHO interventions

In 2014, 2015 and 2016, DG ECHO allocated respectively a total of EUR 11.3 million, EUR 32 million and EUR 28.4 million. In 2017, HIP Ukraine 2017 was adopted and amended once on 15 March 2017¹⁴, for a total amount of EUR 16 million.

2) Other concomitant EU interventions

EUR 25 million have been allocated under European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument/European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENPI/ENI) for early recovery and crisis response. A EUR 50 million support programme for conflict-affected areas in GCA is planned under the 2017 ENI budget. It will target governance, economy/livelihood support, social cohesion and reconciliation and sectoral reforms (health, education, critical public infrastructure). EUR 36.7 million under the IcSP contributes notably in addressing IDP recovery and integration needs, social stabilisation and confidence building, and support restoration of Governance and Reconciliation in Crisis-Affected communities.

3) Other donors availability

The World Bank, the European Investment Bank, the Japanese government, the Norwegian Government, the Canadian Government, USAID provide support in Eastern Ukraine. However, development efforts are constrained with the unpredictability of the situation in the Donbass region. As for the NGCA, development donors are unlikely to

¹³ http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/gender_age_marker_toolkit.pdf ;
http://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/gender-sensitive-aid_en

¹⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/funding/decisions/2017/HIPs/ukraine_2017_en.pdf

even attempt to provide any support. By default humanitarian needs are expected to prevail in the coming years.

4) *Exit scenarios*

DG ECHO is advocating for opportunities for **Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD)** and seeks longer-term commitments from development donors in the GCA, while the contact line and the NGCA will continue to be covered by humanitarian assistance. DG ECHO will also advocate so that the human dimension is well captured in the implementation of the recommendations made by the Ukraine Recovery and Peace-building Assessment (RPA¹⁵) and similar exercises, which will frame the Ukrainian Government's and donors' priorities for the next years.

DG ECHO with other EU services has initiated in early 2017 a coordination process that will lead to the adoption of a **EU Joint Humanitarian and Development Framework (JHDF)** by the end of 2017, aiming at facilitating the coordination and transition between humanitarian aid, early recovery and development for the conflict affected populations and regions.

¹⁵ <http://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/recovery-and-peacebuilding-assessment-analysis-crisis-impacts-and-needs-eastern>