

ANNEX

Operational priorities for Union-funded humanitarian aid operational priorities for 2024 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 Union's humanitarian aid operational priorities for the year 2024 and are to be financed accordingly:

- actions awarded through grants and implemented under direct management (section 2),
- actions performed through procurement and implemented under direct management (section 3),
- actions implemented under indirect management (section 4),
- other actions or expenditure (section 5).

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 assistance as well as relief and protection operations in accordance with Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96. It also comprises food and nutrition assistance in line with the Food Assistance Convention.

The Union's humanitarian aid 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 aid 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 2024

The global humanitarian context in 2024 will most likely remain challenging and similar to the 2023 context in terms of intensity, scope and duration of disasters induced by natural hazards and human-induced crises including armed conflicts and outbreaks of violence. This will therefore result in a similar or increased number of people in need of humanitarian aid. The COVID-19 global pandemic and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine have further exacerbated an already dire situation, with a severe impact on the vulnerabilities of crises-affected populations. It is furthermore important to ensure that the response to new and often highly visible crises does not detract from addressing other 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 with often widespread violations of international humanitarian law, 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, Central Sahel, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, the Great Lakes region, Haïti, Iraq, Myanmar/Bangladesh, Nagorno Karabach, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yemen. 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. The Union's 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, the Union's humanitarian funding will continue to prioritise a needs-based approach as well as an integrated multi-sectoral or cross-sectoral approach to programming that aims to meet the affected populations' needs. At the same time, in 2024, the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) will further enhance its risk-based approach by further promoting anticipatory actions and increasingly factoring climate and environmental risks into its actions, namely through the minimum environmental requirements and recommendations¹. DG ECHO will also take a strategic approach to the humanitarian supply chain and logistics. The latter will also contribute to other key strategic objectives such as tackling the funding gap and improving efficiency of aid. 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's humanitarian funding.

Wherever possible, efforts will be made from the outset to work with development and other actors and 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 to save the lives and address the basic needs of populations affected by disasters. This will also contribute to making the concerned beneficiaries better prepared and more resilient to future disasters and crises and in turn promote stronger stability in third countries.

This action is further expected to lay 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 concerned authorities.

To increase the expected results, the action will also allow for taking into consideration changing circumstances in the field, which might affect existing humanitarian needs or generate new needs, with the result of redirecting or otherwise adjusting Union-funded humanitarian aid operations.

Mainstreaming of climate change

Climate change and environmental degradation are further threatening the well-being and livelihoods of populations affected by humanitarian crises. The European Commission, alongside the humanitarian sector, is taking measures to adapt to the growing humanitarian impact of climate change by promoting a risk-informed approach, further investing in disaster preparedness to increase the climate resilience of vulnerable communities and by scaling up anticipatory actions. In line with the “Do No Significant Harm” Principle, the European Commission is also trying to minimise the damage that EU-funded humanitarian operations may cause to the environment and biodiversity, while maintaining the ability to provide timely and principled humanitarian assistance to those in need. This is done primarily through the Minimum Environmental Requirements and Recommendations, a set of mandatory standards for all EU-funded humanitarian aid projects, which cover areas like clean energy provision, avoiding deforestation, proper waste management and water management to name a few.

¹ *Guidance on the operationalisation of the minimum environmental requirements and recommendations for EU-funded humanitarian aid operations:* https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/climate-change-and-environment_en.

2. GRANTS

The estimated global budget reserved for grants amounts to EUR 842 000 000.

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 the EU Humanitarian Partnership 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 (a) of the Financial Regulation.

To provide humanitarian aid to vulnerable people affected by disasters induced by natural hazards, human-induced crises or exceptional situations or circumstances comparable to these, 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 to third parties. The financial support can only exceed EUR 60 000 where the objectives of the actions would otherwise be impossible or excessively/overly difficult to achieve. Such situations can occur, for example, in cases where: a limited number of non-profit NGOs have the capacity, skills or expertise required; there are only a limited number of organisations in the country of operation, or in the region(s) where the action takes place; in a confederation, family or network context, the partner would rely on other members of the confederation, family or network to ensure geographical coverage, while minimising costs and avoiding duplication.

Provision of financial support to local and national actors in line with the DG ECHO guidance on 'Promoting partnerships with local responders in humanitarian settings' is also encouraged.

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 the EU Humanitarian Partnership 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 (a) of the Financial Regulation and specific grants directly awarded.

To provide a first initial response to cover the immediate needs of the most vulnerable in advance of a predictable emergency or disaster. In the days after a large-scale emergency or sudden onset of a humanitarian crisis to provide humanitarian assistance for response to cover the immediate needs of the most vulnerable populations affected by disasters where a small-scale response is sufficient, and to populations affected by epidemic outbreaks.

Sudden onset large-scale 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 and Large Emergency Response Tool (ALERT) allows the European Commission to rapidly respond to sudden large-scale disasters induced by natural and technological hazards and cover the immediate needs of those most vulnerable in the hours and days after an emergency or a new humanitarian crisis.

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 to third parties. The financial support can only exceed EUR 60 000 where the objectives of the actions would otherwise be impossible or excessively/overly difficult to achieve. Such situations can occur, for example, in cases where: a limited number of non-profit NGOs have the capacity, skills or expertise required; there are only a limited number of organisations in the country of operation, or in the region(s) where the action takes place; in a confederation, family or network context, the partner would rely on other members of the confederation, family or network to ensure geographical coverage, while minimising costs and avoiding duplication.

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 the EU Humanitarian Partnership 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 (a) of the Financial Regulation and specific grants directly awarded.

To continue developing and implementing the European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC). The objective of the EHRC is to support humanitarian partners by facilitating the quick delivery of humanitarian assistance. The EHRC is a set of operational tools designed to provide rapid but temporary support to partners to fill operational gaps in the humanitarian response where the humanitarian community struggles to provide support, thus helping to cover immediate needs of the affected population.

The EHRC consists of three pillars:

- Common logistics services proposed to the humanitarian community; these are a set of services ranging from the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge (EU HAB) to a variety of transport options including international and in-country (last-mile) solutions, warehousing services, and other logistics options.
- Regional Emergency Stockpiles, to support partners with pre-positioning of stocks to reduce logistical challenges in the aftermath of a crisis. The stock will be put at the disposal of humanitarian partners and emergency responders, who will be tasked with the actual distribution to final beneficiaries.

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 to third parties. The financial support can only exceed EUR 60 000 where the objectives of the actions would otherwise be impossible or excessively/overly difficult to achieve. Such situations can occur, for example, in cases where: a limited number of non-profit NGOs have the capacity, skills or expertise required; there are only a limited number of organisations in the country of operation, or in the region(s) where the action takes place; in a confederation, family or network context, the partner would rely on other members of the confederation, family or network to ensure geographical coverage, while minimising costs and avoiding duplication.

2.4. Disaster 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 the EU Humanitarian Partnership 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 (a) of the Financial Regulation and specific grants directly awarded.

To 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 anticipatory action, 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 actions aim at reducing the impact of disasters and crises on populations, allowing early warning, anticipatory action and early response 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 to third parties. The financial support can only exceed EUR 60 000 where the objectives of the actions would otherwise be impossible or excessively/overly difficult to achieve. Such situations can occur, for example, in cases where: a limited number of non-profit NGOs have the capacity, skills or expertise required; there are only a limited number of organisations in the country of operation, or in the region(s) where the action takes place; in a confederation, family or network context, the partner would rely on other members of the confederation, family or network to ensure geographical coverage, while minimising costs and avoiding duplication.

2.5. Enhanced 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 the EU Humanitarian Partnership 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 (a) of the Financial Regulation and specific grants directly awarded

To support the development of innovative approaches, policies, methodologies and tools, as well as capacity building in coordination and preparedness to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian aid delivery. With global humanitarian needs continuing to increase, the capacity of humanitarian actors to respond has been stretched to the limit. In line with the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid² 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 is committed to making humanitarian aid more coherent, of better quality and more effective. This action will thus support activities contributing to increase humanitarian capacity to deliver efficient and effective aid to people in need, increase their preparedness for disasters, and enhance existing policy frameworks.

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 to third parties. The financial support can only exceed EUR 60 000 where the objectives of the actions would otherwise be impossible or excessively/overly difficult to achieve. Such situations can occur, for example, in cases where: a limited number of non-profit NGOs have the capacity, skills or expertise required; there are only a limited number of organisations in the country of operation, or in the region(s) where the action takes place; in a confederation, family or network context, the partner would rely on other members of the confederation, family or network to ensure geographical coverage, while minimising costs and avoiding duplication.

2.6. Reinforcing networking between humanitarian non-governmental organisations

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and organisation representing them referred to in Article 4, sixth indent, 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 (c) of the Financial Regulation and specific grants directly awarded

² OJ C 25, 30.1.2008, p 1.

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, security of humanitarian personnel, 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, effectiveness and security of humanitarian assistance projects.

Implementation

This specific activity of strengthening the coordination with NGOs will be implemented by VOICE (Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies) under direct management by DG ECHO. The total operating grant will be of an amount up to EUR 250 000. 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.

VOICE is a European network representing 89 non-profit humanitarian organisations with their main headquarters in an EU Member State. It further comprises 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 relevant to DG ECHO's activities. These advantages specific to VOICE have been demonstrated through VOICE's track record when working with DG ECHO.

2.7. Strategic humanitarian supply chain and logistics: supporting the paradigm shift

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 (a) of the Financial Regulation and specific grants directly awarded.

The strategic stakes behind humanitarian supply chain and logistics makes this topic a crucial issue across the board as it connects to efficiency of aid, bridging the funding gap, greening, localisation, disaster preparedness, etc.

In addition, as stated in DG ECHO's 2022 Humanitarian Logistics Policy, logistics is cross-sectoral and uses 60-80% of humanitarian funding. There are significant opportunities for efficiency and effectiveness gains; however, these opportunities require a more strategic, programmatic and innovative approach to humanitarian logistics.

Support will be provided to innovative approaches, operations, and dissemination initiatives to increase use of collaborative solutions such as common services, shared services and joint procurement. Support can be

provided on a local, national, regional, or global level, and range from supporting operations directly, to digital platforms, to organisational or shared tools, dissemination, and structural support, or research.

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 to third parties. The financial support can only exceed EUR 60 000 where the objectives of the actions would otherwise be impossible or excessively/overly difficult to achieve. Such situations can occur, for example, in cases where: a limited number of non-profit NGOs have the capacity, skills or expertise required; there are only a limited number of organisations in the country of operation, or in the region(s) where the action takes place; in a confederation, family or network context, the partner would rely on other members of the confederation, family or network to ensure geographical coverage, while minimising costs and avoiding duplication.

3. PROCUREMENT

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2024 amounts to EUR 18 000 000.

3.1. European Humanitarian Response Capacity

General description of the contracts envisaged

To continue developing and implementing the European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC). The objective of the EHRC is to support humanitarian partners by facilitating the quick delivery of humanitarian assistance. The EHRC is a set of operational tools designed to provide rapid but temporary support to partners to fill operational gaps in the humanitarian response where the humanitarian community struggles to provide support, thus helping to cover immediate needs of the affected population.

The EHRC consists of three pillars:

Common logistics services proposed to the humanitarian community; these are a set of services ranging from the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge (EU HAB) to a variety of transport options including international and in-country (last-mile) solutions, warehousing services, and other logistics options.

Regional Emergency Stockpiles, to support partners with pre-positioning of stocks to reduce logistical challenges in the aftermath of a crisis. The stock will be put at the disposal of humanitarian partners and emergency responders, who will be tasked with the actual distribution to final beneficiaries.

Deployment of a set of humanitarian expertise and capacities in particular in the health and logistics sectors.

Implementation

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

3.2. Providing first initial response

General description of the contracts envisaged

DG ECHO may decide to use appropriations available under the epidemic 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.

3.3. Public awareness and information

Public awareness and information

General description of the contracts envisaged

To increase awareness and understanding of, and support to, 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 2024 will also contribute, where appropriate, to the Commission's corporate communication as implemented by DG COMM, and will complement the mandatory visibility and communication actions delivered by the EU-funded partners.

In addition to the actions addressing the wider public opinion, the annual European Humanitarian Forum will specifically target and involve the humanitarian stakeholder community.

Implementation

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

3.4 Policy support framework contract

General description of the contracts envisaged

The objective of the Framework Contract is to provide support and assistance to DG ECHO policy development, through the deployment of short-term expertise, at short notice, as well as ongoing support in areas related to Humanitarian Aid Policies. It concerns contracts for (1) Analysis of policies and their implementation, (2) Organisational support (workshops, conferences and events), (3) Development/revision of policies, guidance, standards, tools and approaches and (4) Communication and advocacy plans.

Implementation

The framework contract is managed under direct management by DG ECHO.

3.5. Other actions

General description of the contracts envisaged

The objective is to provide support and assistance in areas related to Humanitarian Aid. It concerns contracts for organisational support (such as workshops, conferences and events) or for analysis of the humanitarian aid actions (such as audit, evaluation and control).

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

Entities which were subject to a successful *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.

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 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).

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

Implementation

Indirect management.

4.2. Providing first initial response

Implementing entities

Entities which were subject to a successful *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.

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 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).

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

Sudden onset large-scale 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 and Large Emergency Response Tool (ALERT) allows the European Commission to rapidly respond to sudden large-scale disasters induced by natural and technological hazards and cover the immediate needs of those most vulnerable in the hours and days after an emergency or a new humanitarian crisis.

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 covers also DG ECHO's support to the IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund as well as grants for epidemic outbreaks. In such cases, a flexible humanitarian intervention should be sought in order to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations, in particular local communities, affected by these disasters where there are significant unmet needs.

Implementation

Indirect management.

4.3. European Humanitarian Response Capacity

Implementing entities

Entities which were subject to a successful *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.

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 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).

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).

The entities to be entrusted with the implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid actions consisting of or including the provision of humanitarian air 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 service 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

To continue developing and implementing the European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC). The objective of the EHRC is to support humanitarian partners. The EHRC is a set of operational tools designed to provide rapid but temporary support to partners to fill operational gaps in the humanitarian response where the humanitarian community struggles to provide support, thus helping to cover immediate needs of the affected population. The EHRC consists of three pillars:

- Common logistics services proposed to the humanitarian community; these are a set of services ranging from the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge (EU HAB) to a variety of transport options including international and in-country (last-mile) solutions, warehousing services, and other logistics options.
- Regional Emergency Stockpiles, to support partners with pre-positioning of stocks to reduce logistical challenges in the aftermath of a crisis. The stock will be put at the disposal of humanitarian partners and emergency responders, who will be tasked with the actual distribution to final beneficiaries.
- Deployment of a set of humanitarian expertise and capacities in particular in the health and logistics sectors.

Implementation

Indirect management.

4.4. Disaster preparedness

Implementing entities

Entities which were subject to a successful *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.

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.

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 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 anticipatory action, 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 actions aim at reducing the impact of disasters and crises on populations, allowing early warning, anticipatory action, and early response to better assist those affected.

Implementation

Indirect management.

4.5. Enhanced Response Capacity

Implementing entities

Entities which were subject to a successful *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.

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). Similarly, Member States' and international financial institutions may have a specific expertise of direct relevance in the context of projects supporting or otherwise involving innovative humanitarian financing.

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 support the development of innovative approaches, policies, methodologies and tools, as well as capacity building in coordination and preparedness to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian aid delivery. With global humanitarian needs continuing to increase, the capacity of humanitarian actors to respond has been stretched to the limit. In line with 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 is committed to making humanitarian aid more coherent, of better quality and more effective. This action will thus support activities contributing to increase humanitarian capacity to deliver efficient and effective aid to people in need, increase their preparedness for disasters, and enhance existing policy frameworks.

Implementation

Indirect management.

4.6. Strategic humanitarian supply chain and logistics: supporting the paradigm shift

Implementing entities

Entities which were subject to a successful *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.

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).

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

The strategic stakes behind humanitarian supply chain and logistics makes this topic a crucial issue across the board as it connects to: efficiency of aid, bridging the funding gap, greening, localisation, disaster preparedness, etc. In addition, as stated in DG ECHO's 2022 Humanitarian Logistics Policy, logistics is cross-sectoral and uses 60-80% of humanitarian funding. There are significant opportunities for efficiency and effectiveness gains; however, these opportunities require a more strategic, programmatic and innovative approach to humanitarian logistics.

Support will be provided to innovative approaches and dissemination initiatives to increase use of collaborative solutions such as common services, shared services and joint procurement. Support can be provided on a local, national, regional, or global level, and range from supporting operations directly, to digital platforms, dissemination, organisational or shared tools and structural support, or research.

Implementation

Indirect management.

5. OTHER ACTIONS OR EXPENDITURE

5.1. European Humanitarian Response Capacity

Deployment of a set of humanitarian expertise and capacities in particular in the health and logistics sectors. Specifically, the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) will provide services to DG ECHO based on DG ECHO-ECDC service-level agreement and experts from the EU Health Task Force may be deployed by the EHRC to provide specific epidemiological expertise to DG ECHO and partners (including on the spot) in the event of epidemic outbreaks (such as Ebola virus disease, COVID-19 pandemic, etc.).

Implementation

The ECDC will provide services to DG ECHO and partners, including through the EU Health Task Force, based on one or several service-level agreements.

Appendix 1
Allocations by actions in Euro

	14 03 01 Humanitarian Aid
Providing humanitarian aid to vulnerable people affected by disasters induced by natural hazards, human-induced crises or exceptional situations or circumstances comparable to these, which have entailed or are likely to continue entailing major loss of life, physical and psychological or social suffering or material damage,	EUR 1 337 276 062
Providing first initial aid to cover the immediate needs of the most vulnerable in advance of a predictable emergency or disaster. In the days after a large scale emergency or sudden onset of a humanitarian crisis to provide humanitarian assistance for response to cover the immediate needs of the most vulnerable populations affected by disasters where a small-scale response is sufficient, including DG ECHO's support to the IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund, and to populations affected by epidemic outbreaks,	EUR 119 500 000
To increase awareness and understanding of, and support to, 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.	EUR 2 000 000
To continue developing and implementing the European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC), with the purpose of filling operational gaps in the humanitarian response to natural hazards and human-induced disasters. The EHRC helps to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance where the humanitarian community struggles to provide support. It will also help cover the immediate needs of the affected population.	EUR 48 000 000
Support to innovative approaches and initiatives to increase use of collaborative solutions such as common services, shared services and joint procurement. Support can be provided on a local, national, regional, or global level, and range from supporting operations directly, to digital platforms, to organisational or shared tools and structural support, or research.	EUR 6 000 000
Increasing the coherence, quality and effectiveness of humanitarian aid through e.g. the development of innovative approaches, methodologies and tools, and the support to capacity building, coordination and preparedness.	EUR 250 000
	14 03 02 Disaster Preparedness
To 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 anticipatory action, early response and resilience to shocks and reducing vulnerability.	EUR 73 090 600
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 6 500 000

Appendix 2
Indicative allocations by regions/countries 2024 (in euros)

Budget overview:

Humanitarian aid budget allocated to actions -140301	EUR 1 393 026 062
Disaster preparedness budget - 140302	EUR 79 590 600
Operational Reserve	EUR 120 000 000
Total Budget	EUR 1 592 616 662

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 and Central Africa	EUR 167 309 415	Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Togo, Ghana, CAR, Chad, Nigeria, and Cameroon	Cabo Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tomé and Principe	EUR 10 800 000	Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic and Nigeria	EUR 178 109 415
TOTAL WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA	EUR 167 309 415			EUR 10 800 000		EUR 178 109 415
NORTH AFRICA						
North Africa	EUR 16 000 000	Algeria, Libya and Egypt	Morocco, Tunisia			EUR 16 000 000
TOTAL NORTH AFRICA	EUR 16 000 000			EUR 0		EUR 16 000 000
UPPER NILE BASIN, HORN OF AFRICA, GREAT LAKES, SOUTHERN AFRICA, INDIAN OCEAN						
Greater Horn of Africa	EUR 212 500 000	Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia		EUR 8 500 000	South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya and Somalia	EUR 221 000 000
Democratic Republic of Congo and Great Lakes region	EUR 65 000 000	Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania	Republic of Congo	EUR 4 750 000	Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania	EUR 69 750 000
Southern Africa and Indian Ocean	EUR 21 000 000	Madagascar and Mozambique	Angola, Botswana, Comoros Islands, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe	EUR 7 000 000	Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean regional allocation	EUR 28 000 000
TOTAL UPPER NILE BASIN, HORN OF AFRICA, GREAT LAKES, SOUTHERN AFRICA, INDIAN OCEAN	EUR 298 500 000			EUR 20 250 000		EUR 318 750 000
MIDDLE EAST						
Palestine*	EUR 24 005 710	Palestine			Palestine	EUR 24 005 710
Iraq crisis	EUR 20 000 000	Iraq		EUR 3 040 600		EUR 23 040 600
Syria regional and Lebanon crises	EUR 215 000 000	Syria, Lebanon and Jordan				EUR 215 000 000
Yemen	EUR 90 000 000	Yemen			Yemen	EUR 90 000 000
TOTAL MIDDLE EAST	EUR 349 005 710			EUR 3 040 600		EUR 352 046 310
TÜRKIYE						
Türkiye	EUR 26 000 000	Turkey				EUR 26 000 000
TOTAL TÜRKIYE	EUR 26 000 000			EUR 0		EUR 26 000 000
UKRAINE, WESTERN BALKANS AND CAUCASUS						
Ukraine & Eastern Neighbourhood	EUR 76 215 456	Ukraine**, Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Eastern Neighbourhood	Caucasus, Balkans	EUR 1 500 000		EUR 77 715 456
TOTAL UKRAINE, WESTERN BALKANS AND CAUCASUS	EUR 76 215 456			EUR 1 500 000		EUR 77 715 456

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
SOUTH ASIA & PACIFIC						
South-West and Central Asia	EUR 80 000 000	Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan	Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan	EUR 6 500 000	Iran, Pakistan	EUR 86 500 000
South, East, South-East Asia and the Pacific	EUR 42 600 000	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 11 000 000	Bangladesh, Philippines, Nepal, Myanmar, Regional South-East Asia	EUR 53 600 000
TOTAL SOUTH ASIA & PACIFIC	EUR 122 600 000			EUR 17 500 000		EUR 140 100 000
CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA, CARIBBEAN						
Central & South America, Caribbean	EUR 72 145 481	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	EUR 20 000 000	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 and Venezuela	EUR 92 145 481
TOTAL CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA, CARIBBEAN	EUR 72 145 481			EUR 20 000 000		EUR 92 145 481
WORLDWIDE						
Response to sudden onset emergencies	EUR 119 500 000	ALERT, Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and Forecast-based Action (FbA), Epidemics and Small Scale Response, Emergency Response, EHRC and Transport and logistics				EUR 119 500 000
European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC)	EUR 48 000 000					EUR 48 000 000
Humanitarian Logistics Policy Implementation	EUR 6 000 000					EUR 6 000 000
TOTAL WORLDWIDE ACTIONS	EUR 173 500 000			EUR 0		EUR 173 500 000
COMPLEMENTARY OPERATIONS						
Policy Support toolbox	EUR 250 000					EUR 250 000
Enhanced response capacity	EUR 12 000 000			EUR 5 000 000		EUR 17 000 000
Public awareness, Information and Communication	EUR 2 000 000					EUR 2 000 000
Programmatic Partnerships	EUR 77 500 000			EUR 1 500 000		EUR 79 000 000
TOTAL COMPLEMENTARY OPERATIONS	EUR 91 750 000			EUR 6 500 000		EUR 98 250 000
OPERATIONAL RESERVE (OR)						
OPERATIONAL RESERVE (OR)	EUR 120 000 000					EUR 120 000 000
TOTAL	EUR 1 513 026 062			EUR 79 590 600		EUR 1 592 616 662