

EN
ANNEX

**Emergency response actions
under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism in 2024**

1. Introduction

On the basis of the objectives set out in Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council¹, this work programme describes the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for the year 2024 as follows:

- a) for grants (implemented under direct management) (point 2),
- b) for procurement (implemented under direct management) (point 3),
- c) in accordance with EU restrictive measures (point 4).

¹ Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 924).

Legal basis

Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism, and in particular Article 25(5) thereof ².

Budget lines

06.0501 - Union Civil Protection Mechanism

Objectives pursued

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism (hereinafter ‘UCPM’) shall protect primarily people, but also the environment and property, including cultural heritage, from all kinds of natural and man-made disasters, including the consequences of acts of terrorism, technological, radiological or environmental disasters, marine pollution and acute health emergencies, occurring inside or outside the Union (Article 1(2) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

This decision covers actions that are eligible for financial assistance under the UCPM in the field of disaster response in 2024.

Expected results

The assistance offered through the UCPM by EU Member States or mobilised from rescEU reserve, which has been accepted by a requesting country or a relevant international organisation, shall be delivered efficiently and in a timely manner in order to cope with the nature of the emergency.

References to EU Member States in this Decision include third countries participating in the UCPM in accordance with Article 28(1) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

Mobilised expert teams shall be deployed efficiently and in a timely manner in order to adequately carry out their mission.

2. Grants

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this decision shall be EUR 10 000 000 for activities inside and outside the Union.

2.1. Operationalising the response capacities, including transport and related logistics for disasters

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award:

For transport, logistical and operational support, competent authorities designated by Member States³ under Article 56 of Commission Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU

² Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism Text with EEA relevance OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 924

³ In light of Article 28(1a) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, where reference is made to Member States, it shall be understood as including Participating States as defined in Article 4(12) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU;

of 16 October 2014 laying down rules for the implementation of Decision No 1313/2013/EU⁴ may request a direct grant.

For other additional necessary supporting and complementary response actions, Member States' competent authorities or other entities authorised by the Member State to request and receive financial support from the Commission on behalf of that Member State.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195, first subparagraph, point (a), of the Financial Regulation:

The activities to be funded by direct grants relate to the delivery and operationalisation (including transport and logistical resources) of civil protection assistance (e.g., relief supplies, experts or intervention teams and assets, rescEU assets and operational reserves) provided by Member States, including any additional necessary supporting and complementary action in order to facilitate the coordination of the response to a disaster in the most effective way. The direct grants shall be awarded to competent national authorities of Member States designated in accordance with Article 56 of Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU or other entities authorised by the Member State to request and receive financial support from the Commission on behalf of that Member State for any other additional necessary supporting and complementary action. In accordance with Article 51(3) of Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU, the Commission may establish framework partnerships with the relevant competent authorities of the Member States.

Eligibility criteria:

- An official request for assistance is submitted by any country affected by disaster or any relevant international organisation⁵.
- The request is communicated to the Member States and the UCPM is activated.
- The assistance corresponds to the needs identified by the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) and is delivered in accordance with the recommendations given by the ERCC.
- The assistance has been accepted by the requesting country or the relevant international organisation concerned.
- The assistance complements any overall Union humanitarian response.

Selection and award criteria:

A decision on Union financing for support to assistance operations shall be taken on the basis of the criteria set out in Articles 22 and 23 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

⁴ Commission Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU of 16 October 2014 laying down rules for the implementation of Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism and repealing Commission Decisions 2004/277/EC, Euratom and 2007/606/EC, Euratom (OJ L 320, 6.11.2014, p. 1);

⁵ The 'relevant international organisations' are those listed in Annex VII to Commission Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU.

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results:

Complement the operational means (including transport and logistics) provided by Member States by financing additional operational assistance, transport resources and related logistics services necessary for ensuring a rapid response to emergencies within the scope of the UCPM.

The assistance offered through the UCPM, requested and accepted by a requesting country, shall be delivered efficiently and in a timely manner in order to cope with the nature of the emergency.

Implementation:

Direct management by the Commission (DG ECHO).

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs:

The Commission will cover up to 75% / 100% of the total eligible costs depending on the type of assistance and where it is delivered in accordance with Article 23 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals:

The nature of the activities concerned does not make it possible to forecast any timetable or amount; the grants will be awarded mainly when the need arises further to a disaster and for an amount appropriate for ensuring the delivery of the assistance to be provided. Grants for multiple response actions can also be awarded before disasters occur in order to streamline the response when it is needed, reducing the administrative burden during the emergency phase.

Reference	Date	Amount
Transport, operations and any additional necessary supporting and complementary action support within and outside the Union	N/A	EUR 10 000 000

3. Procurement

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in 2024 amounts to EUR 5 000 000 for activities inside and outside the Union.

3.1. Dispatching expertise

General description of the contracts envisaged:

Use of existing framework contract for travel and accommodation costs; reimbursement of such costs to experts whenever the use of the framework contract is not possible.

Use of framework contract or low value contracts for insurance coverage of experts, including risks not covered by the standard Commission contract.

Use of framework contract or low value contracts for the purchase of safety, telecommunication and technical equipment.

Reimbursement of all operational costs of the experts approved and necessary to execute the mission that were paid in advance by the ERCC Liaison Officers (e.g. with official credit cards).

Reimbursement of all other mission-related costs to experts on the basis of written agreements with the latter.

Costs incurred by Union humanitarian (ECHO) Field Offices to provide logistical support for the deployment of civil protection assistance and relied under the UCPM (for emergencies outside the Union).

Implementation:

Direct management by the Commission (DG ECHO).

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged:

Mobilisation and dispatch of teams of experts responsible for:

- assessing the needs that can possibly be addressed under the UCPM in a country requesting assistance;
- facilitating, when necessary, the coordination of disaster response assistance on site and liaising with the competent authorities of the country requesting assistance; and
- supporting the requesting country with expertise on response actions.

3.2. Transport and related assistance

General description of the contracts envisaged:

Specific contracts based on the existing framework contract.

Implementation:

Direct management by the Commission (DG ECHO).

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged:

Support Member States in obtaining access to transport resources by:

- identifying and facilitating their access to transport resources that may be available from other sources, including the commercial market;
- complementing the transport provided by Member States by financing additional transport resources necessary for ensuring a rapid response to emergencies within the scope of the UCPM.
- renting or leasing directly transport and logistics capacities as rescEU capacities in accordance with the quality requirements laid down in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/570. Where appropriate, the Commission shall obtain reimbursement of 25% of the transport costs.

4. Implementation modalities with respect to EU restrictive measures

The Commission ensures that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and that actions comply with European Union restrictive measures.⁶ The Commission must always seek solutions that do not breach European Union restrictive measures. Accordingly, the Commission is required to channel humanitarian aid and civil protection assistance via actions and persons that are not subject to the European Union restrictive measures.

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

Therefore, where no other options are available, the provision of assistance that qualifies as humanitarian aid offered under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism in situations of man-made disasters or complex emergencies referred to in Articles 16(2) and 26(3) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU should be allowed under European Union restrictive measures.

⁶ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website, it is the OJ version that prevails.