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2. FINANCIAL INFO

Indicative Allocation²: EUR 250 535 655.43 of which an indicative amount of EUR 7 000 000 for Education in Emergencies.

In line with DG ECHO's commitment to the Grand Bargain, pilot programmatic partnerships have been launched in 2020 with a limited number of partners (in direct management). New pilot programmatic partnerships could be envisaged in 2021 with partners in indirect management. Part of this HIP may therefore be awarded to these new pilot programmatic partnerships.

Breakdown per Actions as per Worldwide Decision (in euros):

Country(ies)	Action (a) Man-made crises and natural disasters	Action (b) Initial emergency response/small- scale/epidemi- cs	Action I Disaster Preparedness	Actions (d) to (f) Transport / Complementa- ry activities	TOTAL
Afghanistan	222 035 655.43	-	-	-	222 035 655.43
Pakistan	7 000 000	-	2 000 000	-	9 000 000
Iran	18 000 000	-	1 000 000	-	19 000 000
Tajikistan	500 000				500 000

² The Commission reserves the right not to award all or part of the funds made or to be made available under the HIP to which this Annex relates

3. PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT

a) Co-financing:

Under the EU Financial Regulation, grants must involve co-financing; as a result, the resources necessary to carry out the action must not be provided entirely by the grant. An action may only be financed in full by the grant where this is essential for it to be carried out. In such a case, justification must be provided in the Single Form (section 10.4).

b) Financial support to third parties (implementing partners)

Pursuant to Art. 204 FR, for the implementation of actions under this HIP, partners may provide financial support to third parties, e.g. implementing partners. This financial support can only exceed EUR 60 000 if the objectives of the action would otherwise be impossible or excessively difficult to achieve. Such situations can occur in cases where only a limited number of non-profit non-governmental organisations have the capacity, skills or expertise to contribute to the implementation of the action or are established in the country of operation or in the region(s) where the action takes place.

Ensuring broad geographical/worldwide coverage while minimising costs and avoiding duplications concerning in particular presence in country, prompted many humanitarian organisations to network, e.g. through families or confederations. In such a context, the situations referred to above would imply that the partner would rely on other members of the network. In such cases, justification must be provided in the Single Form.

c) Alternative arrangements

In case of country or crisis-specific issues or unforeseeable circumstances which arise during the implementation of the action, the Commission (DG ECHO) may issue specific ad-hoc instructions which partners must follow. Partners may also introduce via the Single Form duly justified requests for alternative arrangements to be agreed by the Commission (DG ECHO) in accordance with Annex 5 to the Grant Agreement.

Field office costs

Costs for use of the field office during the action are eligible and may be declared as unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions for such unit costs and the amount per unit is calculated:

- i. using the actual costs for the field office recorded in the beneficiary's accounts, attributed at the rate of office use and excluding any cost which are ineligible or already included in other budget categories; the actual costs may be adjusted on the basis of budgeted or estimated elements, if they are relevant for calculating the costs, reasonable and correspond to objective and verifiable information

and

- ii. according to usual cost accounting practices which are applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding.

3.1. Administrative info

Allocation round 1 Afghanistan

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 32 000 000
 - Up to EUR 28 000 000 for all Humanitarian Operations
 - Up to EUR 4 000 000 for all Education in Emergencies
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: Please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2021³ Actions will start from 01/01/2021
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Education in Emergencies, Disaster Preparedness, as well as for pilot Programmatic Partnerships. In view of the transition towards the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, the new Single Form and the Model Grant Agreement, it will not be possible to present follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations, as modification requests for the first allocation round of the 2021 HIP. All funding requests will need to be submitted as new proposals on the basis of the Single Form 2021. The above provision does not apply to pilot Programmatic Partnerships which have started in 2020 and for which a modification request remains the norm.
- e) Potential partners⁴: All DG ECHO Partners with an established presence in Afghanistan
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form⁵
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information:⁶

³ The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest.

⁴ Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations..

⁵ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

⁶ The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

- by 17/02/2021 for all Humanitarian and Education in Emergencies Operations

Allocation round 2: Pakistan

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 7 000 000
 - Up to EUR 5 000 000 for all Humanitarian Operations
 - Up to EUR 2 000 000 for all Disaster Preparedness Operations
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: Please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2021⁷ Actions will start from 01/01/2021
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Education in Emergencies, Disaster Preparedness, as well as for pilot Programmatic Partnerships. In view of the transition towards the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, the new Single Form and the Model Grant Agreement, it will not be possible to present follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations, as modification requests for the first allocation round of the 2021 HIP. All funding requests will need to be submitted as new proposals on the basis of the Single Form 2021. The above provision does not apply to pilot Programmatic Partnerships which have started in 2020 and for which a modification request remains the norm.
- e) Potential partners⁸: All DG ECHO Partners who have an established presence in Pakistan and who have not been refused a Government of Pakistan Memorandum of Understanding to operate in Pakistan.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form⁹
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information:¹⁰
 - by 08/03/2021 for all Humanitarian and Disaster Preparedness Operations

Allocation round 3: Iran

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 11 000 000
 - Up to EUR 7 000 000 for all Humanitarian Operations
 - Up to EUR 3 000 000 for all Education in Emergencies
 - Up to EUR 1 000 000 for all Disaster Preparedness Operations

⁷ The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest.

⁸ Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

⁹ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

¹⁰ The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: Please refer to the HIP and to the specific guidelines under section 3.2 of this Technical Annex.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2021¹¹ Actions will start from 01/01/2021
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months, including for Actions on Education in Emergencies, Disaster Preparedness, as well as for pilot Programmatic Partnerships. In view of the transition towards the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, the new Single Form and the Model Grant Agreement, it will not be possible to present follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations, as modification requests for the first allocation round of the 2021 HIP. All funding requests will need to be submitted as new proposals on the basis of the Single Form 2021. The above provision does not apply to pilot Programmatic Partnerships which have started in 2020 and for which a modification request remains the norm.
- e) Potential partners¹²: All DG ECHO Partners with an established presence in Iran
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form¹³
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information:¹⁴
 - by 22/02/2021 for all Humanitarian, Education in Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Operations

Allocation round 4: Iran

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 4 000 000 for all Humanitarian Operations.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to section 0 of the HIP - First modification
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2021¹⁵. Actions will start from 01/01/2021.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months. In view of the transition towards the 2021-2027 Multi annual Financial Framework, the new Single Form and the Model Grant Agreement, it will not be possible to present follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations, as modification requests. All funding requests will need to be submitted as new proposals on the basis of the Single Form 2021.
- e) Potential partners: DG ECHO Partners with an established presence in Iran. DG ECHO will favour follow-up actions, which continue/expand ongoing operations with a proven impact on the growing humanitarian needs.

¹¹ The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest.

¹² Unless otherwise specified potential NGO partners refer to certified partner organisations.

¹³ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

¹⁴ The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

¹⁵ The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest

- f) Information to be provided: Single Form¹⁶
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 22/02/2021¹⁷.

Allocation round 5: Afghanistan

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 25 000 000 for all Humanitarian Operations.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to section 0 of the HIP - Second modification
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2021¹⁸. Actions will start from 01/01/2021.
- d) The initial duration of new Actions may be up to 12 months. Follow-up actions, which continue/extend ongoing operations can be submitted as modification requests for the ongoing action with a time extension of up to 12 months and a total duration of the modified action of up to 48 months. All funding requests will need to be submitted as new proposals or modification requests on the basis of the Single Form 2021.
- e) Potential partners: DG ECHO Partners with an established presence in Afghanistan. DG ECHO will favour follow-up actions, which continue/expand ongoing operations with a proven impact on the growing humanitarian needs.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form¹⁹
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 04/06/2021²⁰.

Allocation round 6: Iran

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 1 500 000 for all Humanitarian Operations.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to section 0 of the HIP - Third modification
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2021²¹. Actions will start from 01/01/2021.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months. All funding requests will need to be submitted as new proposals or modification requests on the basis of the Single Form 2021.

¹⁶ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

¹⁷ The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

¹⁸ The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest

¹⁹ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

²⁰ The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

²¹ The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest

- e) Potential partners: DG ECHO Partners with an established presence in Iran and a proven experience in the health sector. DG ECHO will favour follow-up actions, which continue/expand ongoing operations with a proven impact on the growing humanitarian needs.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form²²
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 09/08/2021²³.

Allocation round 7: Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 70 035 655,43 for all Humanitarian Operations.
 - Afghanistan: up to EUR 65 035 655,43
 - Iran: up to EUR 2 500 000
 - Pakistan: up to EUR 2 000 000
 - Tajikistan: up to EUR 500 000
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to section 0 of the HIP - Fourth modification. Inside Afghanistan, priority will be given to assistance in health and nutrition; food security and agriculture; winterization; support to internally displaced populations. Up to 13 million EUR amount will be earmarked for mine action/awareness and common services/logistical support.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2021²⁴. Actions will start from 01/01/2021.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months. All funding requests will need to be submitted as new proposals or modification requests on the basis of the Single Form 2021.
- e) Potential partners:
 - Afghanistan: DG ECHO Partners with an established presence in the country and an operational capacity. DG ECHO will favour follow-up actions, which continue/expand ongoing operations with a proven impact on the growing humanitarian needs, except for mine action.
 - Iran: DG ECHO partners with an established presence in the country.
 - Pakistan: DG ECHO partners with valid 'Allowed to Work' (ATW) status with Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR)
 - Tajikistan: partners with an established presence in the country and the operational capacity to work with refugees.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form²⁵
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 29/09/2021²⁶.

²² Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

²³ The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

²⁴ The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest

²⁵ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

Allocation round 8: Afghanistan

- a) Indicative amount: up to EUR 100 000 000 for Afghanistan Humanitarian Operations.
- b) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: please refer to section 0 of the HIP - Fifth modification. Inside Afghanistan, priority will be given to assistance in food security (based on IPC data), health and nutrition; winterization; livelihood support, support to internally displaced populations.
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/01/2021²⁷. Actions will start from 01/01/2021.
- d) The initial duration for the Action may be up to 24 months. All funding requests will need to be submitted as new proposals or modification requests on the basis of the Single Form 2021.
- e) Potential partners:
 - a. Afghanistan: DG ECHO Partners with an established presence in the country and an operational capacity. DG ECHO will favour follow-up actions, which continue/expand ongoing operations.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form²⁸
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 15/11/2021²⁹.

3.2. Operational requirements:

3.2.1. Assessment criteria:

- 1) Relevance
 - How relevant is the proposed intervention and its compliance with the objectives of the HIP?
 - Has the joint needs assessment been used for the proposed intervention (if existing)?
 - Has the proposed intervention been coordinated with other relevant humanitarian actors?
- 2) Capacity and expertise
 - Does the partner, with its implementing partners, have sufficient expertise (country / region and / or technical)?
 - How good is the partner's local capacity / ability to develop local capacity?

²⁶ The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

²⁷ The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, whatever occurs latest

²⁸ Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL.

²⁹ The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.

3) Methodology and feasibility

- Quality of the proposed response strategy, including intervention logic / logframe, output & outcome indicators, risks and challenges.
- Feasibility, including security and access constraints.
- Quality of the monitoring arrangements.

4) Coordination and relevant post-intervention elements

- Extent to which the proposed intervention is to be implemented in coordination with other humanitarian actors and actions (including, where relevant, the use of single interoperable registries of beneficiaries).
- Extent to which the proposed intervention contribute to resilience and sustainability.

5) Cost-effectiveness/efficiency/transparency

- Does the proposed intervention display an appropriate relationship between the resources to employed, the activities to be undertaken and the objectives to be achieved?
- Is the breakdown of costs sufficiently documented/explained?³⁰

In case of actions ongoing in the field, where DG ECHO is requested to fund the continuation thereof, a field visit may be conducted by DG ECHO field expert (TA) to determine the feasibility and quality of the follow-up action proposed.

No award will be made to NGO partner organisations which have not complied with their obligations concerning the submission of audited financial statements (i.e. which would not have submitted those in due time to the Commission without a proper justification) or which would appear not to offer sufficient guarantee as to their financial capacity to implement the proposed actions (in light of their liquidity and independency ratios as appearing from their latest available annual statutory accounts certified by an approved external auditor).

3.2.2. *Specific operational guidelines and operational assessment criteria:*

This section outlines the specific operational guidelines that DG ECHO partners need to take into account in the design of humanitarian operations supported by DG ECHO. It also lists and explains the assessment criteria – based on those outlined in section 3.2.1 – that DG ECHO will apply in the specific context of the HIP to which this Technical Annex relates when assessing proposals submitted in response to the related HIP.

³⁰ In accordance with the relevant section of the Single Form guidelines (section10)

For all country operations, the e-Single Form should ensure:

Mainstreaming of protection, gender, age and disability inclusion based on a comprehensive risk analysis, will be a pre-condition for selection. This includes taking into account strategies to prevent risks of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and appropriate measures ensuring inclusion of people with disabilities in proposed actions.

General requirements

Project proposals submitted under the HIP Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran 2021 should include a recent needs assessment based on primary data collection and a risk analysis.

Information management and coordination activities shall be duly integrated in the logical framework of proposals. Partners are recommended to implement relevant measures to standardise the criteria for information management. Initiatives should be properly coordinated with already existing platforms in order to maximise their impact.

All information and products generated within DG-ECHO funded actions shall be made available to the humanitarian community, ensuring confidentiality of sensitive data (such as protection and health information).

DG ECHO welcomes the creation of consortia if they contribute to improved coordination and a more integrated multi-sectoral humanitarian response as well as cost-efficiency.

In a context of competing priorities and increased needs, cost-efficiency is a top priority for DG ECHO. Specific attention will be paid to the ratio between programme costs and support costs.

Impact of Covid-19

As the global pandemic continues and countries still battling with the direct impact of the crisis, the secondary impacts of Covid-19 will likewise be extensive with far reaching consequence of the most vulnerable populations in terms of food insecurity, access to basic needs and increased protection risks.

All actions must be adapted to the evolution and the impact of Covid-19 in-country. While continuing lifesaving services, partners are requested to ensure the safety and protection of their staff and beneficiaries through Covid-19 sensitive programming. Further, the duty of care towards humanitarian staff is of critical importance for DG ECHO across all actions.

ECHO will maintain attention on the most vulnerable population groups, - those impacted by the secondary consequences of Covid-19 and those categories that for reason of nationality, ethnicity, legal status or other reasons, are marginalized and excluded from national safety nets and access to basic services. In this perspective, responding to acute humanitarian basic needs originated by displacement, conflict, natural disasters remain the focus of ECHO. Beneficiary targeting needs to consider the combined effects – i.e. shocks and the secondary impact of Covid-19. Likewise, humanitarian actors are expected to adapt targeting tools including enhanced livelihood analysis and geographic focus, in order to improve the capacity to identify the new categories of people in need.

Partner shall take measures to reduce the risk of spreading the pandemic through gathering of crowds during the delivery of assistance; in particular DG ECHO recommends to: i) enhance digital solutions; ii) remove conditionalities requiring gatherings; iii) increase

cash-out / vouchers redemptions / in-kind food distribution points; iv) enhance hygiene and distancing at outlet/cash-out/distribution points.

Use of Cash

In line with the Grand Bargain commitment to “increase the use and coordination of cash-based programming,” partners are encouraged to use the cross-cutting pilot multipurpose cash outcome indicators as identified by the Grand Bargain Cash Workstream. <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/multipurpose-cash-outcome-indicators-final-draft-for-testing/>.

Where assistance is to be delivered in the form of cash transfers, particular attention will be paid to the principles laid down in DG ECHO's cash guidance note, which will form the basis for the assessment and selection of partners, in particular in the case of large-scale transfers. Partners will be expected to demonstrate a satisfactory efficiency ratio and, to the extent possible and taking into account the operational context, partners will be assessed on their ability to work based on common targeting criteria, single or interoperable beneficiary registries, a single payment mechanism, a common feedback mechanism and a common results framework. In line with the cash guidance note, DG ECHO will expect partners to strive for segregation of duties and full transparency on the costs of implementation. Furthermore, partners should ensure that the efficiency ratio is maintained throughout the action, unless otherwise approved by DG ECHO. For the delivery of smaller-scale cash transfers, DG ECHO will assess proposals paying particular attention the Guidance note's principles of coordination, harmonisation and multi-partner approach.

Strengthening Early Response Capacity

(1) Emergency/Rapid Response Mechanisms (ERM/RRM) as standalone actions

Emergency/Rapid Response Mechanisms (ERMs/RRMs) are stand-alone actions pooling capacities of different partners for improved and more coordinated preparedness and early response, guided by early warning and contingency plans. ERMs/RRMs are designed to provide initial lifesaving multipurpose assistance when other response mechanisms are not yet in place. ERMs/RRMs are mostly used for rapid-on-set crisis. For slow-on-set, objective indicators with thresholds for engagement / disengagement should be defined in coordination with other stakeholders including the State Authorities.

(2) Flexibility embedded into the actions

Whenever relevant, partners should introduce flexibility to mobilize resources from on-going actions and swiftly respond to any new emerging shocks occurring in the area of their operations (a crisis within a crisis). Flexibility measures can be triggered to provide initial lifesaving multipurpose response in the aftermath of a rapid onset crisis; the two main scenarios are: i) to fill the time gap while waiting for additional resources; ii) to respond to small scale humanitarian needs which would otherwise remain unattended.

The application of flexibility measures should be based on a multi-risk analysis and the development of worst and most likely scenarios. Partners should develop a detailed plan considering prepositioning of stocks, surge staff, triggers and sectors of intervention.

Enhanced flexibility can be achieved through the use of Crisis Modifiers. In the framework of DG ECHO-supported interventions, the term “Crisis Modifier” refers to a separate result to enhance responsiveness to a new event or change in context.

ERM/RRM and flexibility measures are complementary and do not exclude each-other; flexibility measures enable to bridge the time gap between the shock and the time needed to mobilize ad-hoc resources through the ERM/RRM or additional funding. Timeliness of response is a key element for effectiveness of both flexibility measures and ERM/RRM. Partners should adopt indicators to measure the timeframe required to deliver the first assistance (e.g. lifesaving response for xxx persons, and/or need assessment within xxx days from the displacement/disaster/alert/exceeded triggers). Partners should strive to minimise the time lapse between the alert and the response.

The HIP Policy Annex should be consulted in parallel.

Nexus: Humanitarian – Development (Peace)

DG ECHO strives to achieve more coherent and complementary planning, programming and financing, through increased cooperation and coordination between humanitarian, development and peace actors. A shared analysis of risks, needs, vulnerabilities, dynamics and cross-shared information on field realities is the basis of DG ECHO’s programming and is systematically developed and updated.

In order to achieve the most effective use of resources, DG DEVCO and DG ECHO multiply their efforts to promote rationalization and operational coordination, within our own institutions and with other donors and partners, e.g. UN, INGOs and the WB. DG ECHO will ensure that Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) policies work together while protecting our mandate, principles and perception.

Actions, when applicable, should take into account the relevance of the nexus, in particular the nexus between operations in the realm of humanitarian and development funding. Partners should display the (potential) complementarity of the proposed action.

AFGHANISTAN

DG ECHO will continue to focus on most urgent uncovered humanitarian needs. DG ECHO partners are expected to further prioritise lifesaving activities, in particular in situations where populations cannot access any assistance due to conflict, disaster and/or displacement.

Provision of essential items and public services through humanitarian interventions is to be coordinated with mid-/long-term support strategies and governmental systems, in order to support the timely transition of services to mid-long-term assistance when possible.

Balanced humanitarian assistance, protection and advocacy (on IHL, IHRL and humanitarian principled action) are required –in the best interest of the affected population. Further, partner-specific accountability mechanisms in addition to coordination with Awaaz are required.

Geographical coverage

DG ECHO's actions will mainly focus on areas where the Government services are not delivered, either in non-Government controlled or contested areas, or hard-to-reach areas. Areas of return can also be targeted. Of increasing relevance are urban and semi-urban areas.

Access: DG ECHO will insist on a direct management and monitoring approach in Afghanistan. That means that partner staff holding an appropriate level of responsibility must be able to visit and monitor actions. All actions are expected to at least maintain, if not expand humanitarian access in line with the humanitarian principles. A detailed explanation of the level and quality of access, and the risks associated to the access, will be a pre-requisite for a proposal to be selected, including contingency and mitigation measures for Covid-19. DG ECHO supports the Humanitarian Access Working Group as leading advisor in accessing new areas.

Target populations

Target populations will be the most vulnerable people affected by conflict, natural disasters, migratory pressures, and the impact of the Covid pandemic. For example new IDPs, war-wounded, people deprived of access to basic and reproductive health care, people in need of life saving nutritional support, children under five and pregnant and lactating women suffering from acute malnutrition, returnees in urban and semi-urban areas, people affected by natural disasters.

Sector prioritisation

Health: DG ECHO will support health actions related to the provision of life-saving healthcare to those affected by conflict, disasters and epidemics. Actions should address acute health needs of most vulnerable populations ensuring quality services in conflict affected, hard-to-reach areas. Essential services may include disease outbreak preparedness and response, a complete package of trauma care, primary health care services, sexual and reproductive health, management of gender-based violence (GBV), occupational therapy, mental health specialised services and focused nonspecialised supports. Emergency psychosocial support (PSS) including strengthening community and family supports and social considerations in basic services and security can also be supported. Rehabilitation of facilities, incl. WASH, may be considered.

All projects shall clearly elaborate on linkages with the national health care systems avoiding duplication with the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS)/Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS) and present the additional value and activities proposed that cannot be carried on by BPHS/EPHS services. DG ECHO may support comprehensive primary health care services via mobile or static modalities. Support to secondary health services and structures will only be considered against lifesaving, clearly identified gaps.

DG ECHO will support Nutrition interventions that prioritize lifesaving curative activities such as treatment of Severe and Moderate Acute Malnutrition. Interventions may include an integrated design to respond to various contributory causes underlying acute malnutrition, e.g. focusing on areas with significant prevalence of acute malnutrition addressing the critical nutritional and food needs of specific groups such as caregivers and children.

Multi-sector rapid response: The humanitarian response to those immediately affected by conflict and natural disasters remains one of the priorities for DG ECHO in Afghanistan to fill gaps where Governmental services or development actors may not reach. The emergency response shall cover minimum requirements, including Food, Emergency Shelter, Non-Food Items, primarily via multi-purpose cash assistance, complemented with WASH assistance and support to access to Health and Protection services, and align to the parameters defined in DG ECHO’s “Internal Note on the Emergency Response Mechanisms 2020”.

Multi-sector rapid response actions must follow a targeted approach, considering shifting dynamics in terms of security, seasonality, access and population movement. Maintaining an effective and efficient response and strong linkages with specialized service providers will engage directly with the evolving needs of the affected population. Further, synergies with resilience and development actors must be demonstrated to address the protracted needs of displaced populations.

DG ECHO prioritizes partner alliances and consortia modalities for multi-sector rapid response actions, operating based on an updated “common rationale”.

Protection: DG ECHO will particularly consider the systematic integration of protection elements through other sectoral actions, addressing the protracted and complex nature of risks, needs and increasing vulnerabilities. Basic responses may include identification of people with specific needs, psychological first aid, active referrals and accompaniment.

DG ECHO may also support standalone protection actions that provide specialized services to prevent, mitigate and respond to life-threatening violations and stop existing dangerous coping mechanisms, focusing on most vulnerable groups such as women, and children at-risk, the elderly, people living with disabilities and their caregivers, and people on the move. Specifically, improved access to and the delivery of specialized protection services for victims of violence, incl. GBV and child protection violations will be considered. All protection services are to be embedded within a comprehensive case management process. Complementary approaches, including community-based protection, may be explored. Utilisation of cash in protection programming must have a clear protection outcome and will not be supported unless embedded within legal assistance case management or accompaniment, and within a wider comprehensive and integrated protection response.

Harmonized monitoring, documenting, analysis and reporting through systematic protection information management that feeds into a joint evidence-based advocacy approach is a key component of all responses.

Advocacy may be supported within an intervention when based on evidence of grave violations of International Humanitarian, Human Rights and Refugee Law or of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

Education in Emergencies: The principal emphasis of DG ECHO will be on delivering education services via actions that proactively increase safe and secure access to quality learning environments, including the protection of education from attacks. That includes the mitigation of the impact of the Covid pandemic, in regards to education. Priorities include delivering education where and for whom it would otherwise not exist, focusing on identified vulnerable populations (e.g. displaced children prevented from returning to areas of origin, and/or children living in areas not directly supported by the Government,

children living with disabilities, girls). Assistance should be aligned to Conflict Sensitive Education principles and provide an integrated Education and Protection (Child, GBV etc.) response. Proposals may also reflect integrated designs, contribution to emergency response capacity, and community and family engagement strategies. Actions should include specific gender needs analysis and adapted responses.

Support Services: Contributions can be provided towards the support to common services including enabling safe access, safety & security advice, humanitarian flight services as well as data collection and analysis of beneficiaries' reporting (i.e. the provision of a beneficiary feedback mechanism). Such services must operate inclusively and in respect of humanitarian principles. Proposals must demonstrate effective alignment with the needs of the humanitarian partners.

Disaster Preparedness: Afghanistan has no particular budget line for disaster preparedness. However, when applicable, elements relating to disaster preparedness should be mainstreamed into the ECHO funded actions. For example, such could be elements of capacity building among the targeted population (including training and certain types of advocacy), improving the readiness and strengthening of health facilities, improving food security as well as preparatory measures to avoid the propagation of the Covid pandemic.

PAKISTAN

Requirements for partners: DG ECHO potential partners will be required to have a relevant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government of Pakistan and have access for assessments, implementation and monitoring.

Provision of essential items and public services through humanitarian interventions is to be coordinated with governmental systems and mid-/long-term support strategies, where possible, in order to support a sustainable response.

Balanced humanitarian assistance, protection and advocacy (e.g. on humanitarian principled action and humanitarian access) are required, in the best interest of the affected population, as well as partner-specific accountability mechanisms and coordination.

Geographical coverage: Geographical areas affected by multiple crises might be prioritised, on the basis of vulnerability and needs of the population.

Target populations: DG ECHO's focus will continue to be on the most vulnerable Afghans, registered, passport or visa holders or undocumented; most vulnerable IDPs and returnees; most vulnerable people affected by malnutrition, natural disasters and the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. People affected by multiple crises will be prioritised, on the basis on vulnerabilities and needs.

For the protracted Afghan refugee caseload, Actions will need to emphasize protection and focus on the most vulnerable, including women, children, elderly, people with disabilities and minorities. DG ECHO will support protection assistance for voluntary, safe and dignified return. In the case of returnees in the merged (former FATA) areas, partners will

need strong targeting capacity based on vulnerabilities. In re-settlement areas, programmes must complement and not replace development initiatives. Only partners with proven experience of working in the merged areas will be considered.

Sector prioritisation

Health, including nutrition: Some activities linked to Covid-19 such as Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), such as testing, PPEs, case management and supplies could be considered. This may include the establishment of separate circuits for infectious diseases, maternal health checks and care, vaccination and information / awareness raising (RCCE). Nutrition activities need to be integrated in the health system. The objective continues to be supporting the provincial set-up, expanding and strengthening the system in order to include identification and treatment of acute malnutrition in the health system. DG ECHO's response is coordinated with DEVCO's and concerns very limited geographical areas where malnutrition rates are highest, for instance in Baluchistan and Sindh. In the humanitarian-development nexus optic, DG ECHO will fund activities that are linked to longer-term development projects that include system strengthening in order to be able to phase out after some time. WASH in nutrition could be considered as well in order to provide a more comprehensive response. Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) can be considered when malnutrition is caused by natural disasters and when access to Health and Nutrition services is limited by Covid-19. DG ECHO may also support DP activities for improvement of shock responsiveness and building on strengthening nutrition systems and use the lessons learned from previous projects enabling authorities to respond to (seasonal) spikes, particularly in provinces in IPC 3 and 4 phases and areas with large number of refugees.

Protection: A comprehensive protection risk analysis is crucial to ensure the correct response and target the most vulnerable, including women and children at-risk, elderly, people with disabilities and minorities. For Afghans (regardless of registration status), the focus will be on protection and safeguarding asylum space. Targeted actions can include specific protection needs such as documentation and legal aid as well as programmes that would ensure the protection of returnees to Afghanistan, for a voluntary, safe and dignified return. Measures to prevent violence, abuse, harassment, extortion and exploitation must be included in all projects, and access to appropriate responses to victims of violence must be ensured. Protection interventions underpinning durable solutions for voluntary, safe and dignified return of IDPs to their areas of origin can also be supported. Support to protection monitoring informing programming and advocacy may also be considered. Utilisation of cash in protection programming must have a clear protection outcome and will not be supported unless embedded within legal assistance case management or accompaniment, and within a wider comprehensive and integrated protection response.

Emergency response to natural disasters and conflict: Multi-sectorial assistance may be provided in response to natural disasters, both sudden and slow onset. Disaster responses should always integrate Disaster Preparedness elements and projects should be linked to longer-term development initiatives, where possible. Responses may include shelter, food security and livelihood, WASH, education, health, nutrition and protection. They should always mainstream protection principles, as well as gender and age aspects. Cash transfer as modality should be preferred when feasible and appropriate. The value of the transfer per household should be based on gaps between household own resources/other assistance and the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) during the most

critical phases of the emergency. Government-endorsed MEBs and safety net transfer values can be used as reference, but might not fully reflect the needs in a humanitarian response, particularly in the aftermath of rapid-onset disasters, when in addition to recurrent basic needs factored in the MEB, other ad-hoc needs shall be considered.

An action may include IYCF activities and access to primary health care for vulnerable populations, if duly justified.

Education in Emergencies: DG ECHO will support actions that target most vulnerable Afghans IDPs, as there are still more than 100 000 IDPs in KP province, and returnees. All actions should integrate child protection, address psychosocial support needs and promote equity for boys and girls. Minimum standards for education and DG ECHO Thematic Policy must also be taken into consideration. In view of the Covid-19 context, DG ECHO will encourage innovative responses to ensure that return to school and learning is done in a safe and dignified manner. All education activities should integrate promotion of infection, prevention and control (IPC) activities for the prevention of Covid-19 transmission.

Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction: DG ECHO will consider Actions that strengthen local capacities for preparedness and response to natural disasters as well as preparedness capacity of the health system with a strong emphasis on community environmental health, as this was a demonstrated need during the Covid-19 pandemic response. DG ECHO will also maintain a focus on strengthening shock-responsiveness of nutrition systems. A disaster preparedness component should always be integrated in all the emergency response actions.

IRAN

DG ECHO's response will continue to focus on most vulnerable Afghans and Iranians, accordingly to the significant increase in humanitarian needs, as a result of Covid-19 severe outbreak, US sanctions and Iran economic crisis. Priority will be given to those most affected by Covid-19 and its socio-economic impact as well as broader health needs and natural disasters.

Provision of essential items and public services through humanitarian interventions is to be coordinated with governmental systems and mid-/long-term support strategies, where possible, in order to support a sustainable response.

Balanced humanitarian assistance, protection and advocacy (e.g. on humanitarian principled action and humanitarian access) are required, in the best interest of the affected population, as well as partner-specific accountability mechanisms and coordination.

Infrastructure Rehabilitation: Any infrastructure rehabilitation such as for education and health facilities must respect internationally recognised standards for earthquake proofing and must obtain, on completion, documented approval by the relevant government authorities before they are occupied and made use of. Element of disaster preparedness must be integrated as well.

Geographical coverage: Across the country, according to humanitarian needs. Geographical areas affected by multiple crises might be prioritised, on the basis of vulnerability and needs of the population.

Target populations:

DG ECHO's focus continues to be on the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable Afghans and Iranians, with particular attention to those most hit by Covid-19, both in terms of health and limited capacity to fulfil their basic needs, as well as people affected by other critical health needs and natural disasters.

Afghan refugees will be supported regardless of their registration status, with a specific attention on the most vulnerable ones, including the undocumented. Sectors of assistance that can be covered are food security; non-food items; health and psycho-social support, WASH, shelter, protection and education in emergency, including through cash assistance, when possible.

Most vulnerable Iranians can also be targeted by DG ECHO's supported actions, especially in the health, socio-economic and education sectors, as well as in response to natural disasters.

Sector prioritisation

Health: DG ECHO will continue to monitor the situation in country concerning the Covid-19 outbreak and the impact of US sanctions on the health system. Support would continue to include the response to Covid-19 and broader health humanitarian needs, on the basis of evolving necessities. The focus will remain on access to primary health care of most vulnerable Afghans as well as Iranians, the latter especially in relation to Covid-19 and impact of US sanctions. Procurement of medical drugs and equipment to mitigate the effects of US sanctions is considered when needs are well documented and not possible to be covered otherwise. WASH interventions, can be included in the health response as appropriate. Where feasible, support would be linked to development aid that comprises system strengthening. On Afghans, specifically, DG ECHO will not support the premiums for registered Afghan refugees to access the national health insurance scheme. However, it will support measures to assist most vulnerable refugees that are not eligible for the scheme to access health care or are not able to afford the cost of medical treatment. Links to development support should be ensured for a sustainable response

Education in Emergencies: DG ECHO will consider all activities that promote return to, retainment in and access to safe schooling for Afghan children and will support also host communities in full respect of the do no harm principle. All Actions need to respect DG ECHO's policy framework for Education in Emergencies. All programmes must be approved by the Ministry of Education. Proposals must also clearly demonstrate that measures to protect and safeguard children have been taken into consideration. Child protection responses and psycho-social support are an integral part of Education in Emergencies projects needs. All education activities should integrate promotion of IPC activities for the prevention of Covid-19 transmission. Any rehabilitation of school structures may be considered only in those situations in which rehabilitation is considered a priority, and where no development donor is active. WASH interventions, can be linked to the education response as appropriate.

Multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance, including WASH, shelter, health, food-security and livelihoods: Support will focus on most vulnerable shock affected Afghans and Iranians, e.g. those hit by natural disasters, and the impact of Covid-19, including in socio-economic terms. Emergency interventions responding to natural disasters, both sudden and slow-onset, should integrate elements of disaster preparedness.

Where local markets are functional, allow for equal and safe access, and basic commodities' prices are stable, multi-purpose cash is to be privileged. A multi-sectoral basic needs approach would be needed. The value of the cash transfer per household should be based on gaps between household own resources/other assistance and the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB). Government-endorsed MEBs and safety net transfer values can be used as reference but might not fully reflect the needs in a humanitarian response, particularly in the aftermath of rapid-onset disasters, when in addition to recurrent basic needs factored in the MEB, other ad-hoc needs shall be considered.

Disaster Preparedness (DP) and Risk Reduction: As Iran is a country very exposed to climate induced disasters and other natural hazards, disaster preparedness and risk reduction must be mainstreamed in all interventions. Furthermore, a specific pilot will be launched in 2021 to reinforce the capacity of the education and health systems to withstand emergencies such as natural hazards and epidemics. On the latter, following the Covid-19 pandemic, DG ECHO will consider actions to reinforce the health system preparedness with a strong emphasis on community environmental health, especially in border and urban areas where most Afghans live and transit. For education, DP actions should prepare the education system to most common natural hazards, e.g. floods and earthquake, by addressing the three pillars of school safety (safe Learning Facilities; school Disaster management and resilient Education). Focus will be on areas most/recently affected, in order to minimise education service disruption and enhance children's safe access to schools, for instance, during and after floods event.

Protection: A comprehensive protection risk analysis is crucial to ensure the correct response and target those most at risk, and particular attention should be paid to often overlooked and marginalised groups such as elderly, people with disabilities, women and children and undocumented Afghans. For Afghans (regardless of registration status), the focus will be on protection and safeguarding asylum space; targeted actions can include specific protection needs, such as documentation, registration, legal aid and protection support for voluntary, safe and dignified return to Afghanistan. Measures to prevent violence, abuse, harassment, extortion and exploitation must be included in all projects, and access to appropriate responses to victims of violence must be ensured. Utilisation of cash in protection programming must have a clear protection outcome and will not be supported unless embedded within legal assistance case management or accompaniment, and within a wider comprehensive and integrated protection response.

TAJIKISTAN

DG ECHO's response will focus on newly-arrived Afghans, accordingly to the significant increase in humanitarian needs due to the spill over effect of the situation in Afghanistan. Preparation of contingency plans and repositioning of essential assets in preparation to a

potential influx are also encouraged. ECHO partners are expected to further prioritise essential needs and the most vulnerable.

Provision of essential items and public services through humanitarian interventions is to be coordinated with governmental systems and mid-/long-term support strategies, where possible, in order to support a sustainable response.

Balanced humanitarian assistance, protection and advocacy (e.g. on humanitarian principled action and humanitarian access) are required, in the best interest of the affected population, as well as partner-specific accountability mechanisms and coordination.

Geographical coverage: Across the country, according to humanitarian needs. Geographical areas where high number of refugees and asylum seekers are present or are expected shall be prioritised, on the basis of vulnerability and needs of the population.

Target populations:

DG ECHO's focus will be on the humanitarian needs of the newly-arrived Afghans, with particular attention to those with limited capacity to fulfil their basic needs.

Afghan refugees will be supported regardless of their registration status, with a specific attention on the most vulnerable ones, including the undocumented. Sectors of assistance that can be covered are contingency plans, prepositioning of essential assets, food security, non-food items, health and psycho-social support, WASH, shelter, protection and education in emergency, including through cash assistance, when possible.

Sector prioritisation

Multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance, including WASH, shelter, health, food-security and livelihoods: Support will focus on most vulnerable newly-arrived Afghans. Where local markets are functional, allow for equal and safe access, and basic commodities' prices are stable, multi-purpose cash is to be privileged. A multi-sectoral basic needs approach would be needed.

Shelter: New temporary/permanent shelters and camps are being planned. For the temporary/permanent shelters and camps to be built, imminent needs include winter tents, equipment, WASH, food. Refurbishing of existing infrastructure would provide for a longer-term solution in support of crisis/emergency management – to be used also in case of internal relocation needs and temporary accommodation in relation to frequent occurrence of natural disasters. Such double-purpose facilities would allow for longer-term planning and more structured integration into the local communities.

Health: DG ECHO support would include the response to Covid-19 and broader health humanitarian needs, on the basis of evolving necessities. The focus will remain on access to primary health care of most vulnerable Afghans. WASH interventions, can be included in the health response as appropriate. Essential services may include disease outbreak preparedness and response, a complete package of trauma care, primary health care

services, sexual and reproductive health, management of gender-based violence (GBV), occupational therapy, mental health specialised services and focused nonspecialised supports. Emergency psychosocial support (PSS) including strengthening community and family supports and social considerations in basic services and security can also be supported. All projects shall clearly elaborate on linkages with the national health care systems avoiding duplication and present the additional value and activities proposed that cannot be carried on by the national system. Support to secondary health services and structures will only be considered against lifesaving, clearly identified gaps. Where feasible, support would be linked to development aid that comprises system strengthening for a sustainable response.

Education in Emergencies: DG ECHO will consider all activities that promote return to, retainment in and access to safe schooling for Afghan children and will support also host communities in full respect of the do no harm principle. All Actions need to respect DG ECHO's policy framework for Education in Emergencies. All programmes must be approved by the Ministry of Education. Proposals must also clearly demonstrate that measures to protect and safeguard children have been taken into consideration. Child protection responses and psycho-social support are an integral part of Education in Emergencies projects needs. WASH interventions, can be linked to the education response as appropriate.

Protection: A comprehensive protection risk analysis is crucial to ensure the correct response and target those most at risk, and particular attention should be paid to often overlooked and marginalised groups such as elderly, people with disabilities, women and children and undocumented Afghans. For Afghans (regardless of registration status), the focus will be on protection and safeguarding asylum space. Targeted actions can include specific protection needs, such as documentation, registration, legal aid and protection support for voluntary, safe and dignified return to Afghanistan. Measures to prevent violence, abuse, harassment, extortion and exploitation must be included in all projects, and access to appropriate responses to victims of violence must be ensured. Utilisation of cash in protection programming must have a clear protection outcome and will not be supported unless embedded within legal assistance case management or accompaniment, and within a wider comprehensive and integrated protection response.