

**HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)
SOUTH, EAST, SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

AMOUNT: EUR 59 000 000

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

The present Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) was prepared on the basis of the financing decision DG ECHO/WWD/BUD/2018/01000 (Worldwide Decision) and the related General Guidelines for Operational Priorities on Humanitarian Aid (Operational Priorities). The purpose of the HIP and its annex is to serve as a communication tool for DG ECHO's partners and to assist them in the preparation of their proposals. The provisions of the Worldwide Decision and the General Conditions of the Agreement with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

0. Major changes since previous version of the HIP

Sixth Modification 09/11/2018

Rohingya crisis – Bangladesh

Close to one million Rohingya are currently living in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The Rohingya crisis remains heavily underfunded. As of beginning of November, the 2018 Joint Response Plan (JRP) for Bangladesh (USD 951 million for 1.3 million people, including host communities) is less than 45% funded. The most urgent need concerns now food assistance, on which the entire refugee population is 100% reliant. The food security sector is still only 44% funded, and only 16% of target beneficiaries receive dietary diversification. A break in the food pipeline is expected to happen by December 2018 if no additional resources are injected in the sector. This could put at risk the survival of vulnerable refugees, affect the security situation in the camps, and generate tensions with host communities. Furthermore, the funding gap would undermine the long-lasting efforts of DG ECHO - together with other donors - to advocate with the government for a cash-based response, which would empower refugees, reduce dependency on in-kind aid, enhance dignified living conditions and avoid the negative coping mechanisms resorted to by women and children. Funding limitations could also stop - among other things - the expansion of livelihood activities that can increase the self-reliance of refugees. In response to this emergency, an amount of **EUR 5 000 000** is added to this HIP to reinforce food assistance in Cox's Bazar.

Fifth Modification 04/09/2018

India – Kerala floods

Unusually heavy rainfall since late July until 19 August in the southern Indian state of Kerala led to the worst flooding in almost a century. According to the Kerala government, more than 5 million people have been directly affected by the floods. On 20 August the Union government declared it a 'Calamity of a severe nature'. Based on

available information, as of 27 August, the death toll has reached 307 and over 400,000 people are in 1,435 relief camps.

According to the ECHO T/A that has performed an on the spot assessment: All affected districts have incurred huge losses on account of damages to shelter and household goods. It is estimated that approximately 100,000 houses have been damaged or destroyed. Water sources (drinking / other purposes) have been contaminated and latrines destroyed. Daily wage labourers, small and marginal farmers are the most affected communities in this crisis and the vulnerability for socio-economically marginalized has further exacerbated. Communities have lost their purchasing power given the lack of livelihood opportunities for a minimum period of 3-4 months.

Even if the central government has allocated substantial funds, these will take time to reach the most vulnerable victims, whereas ECHO partners are on the spot and can target these beneficiaries quickly and effectively thus reducing both suffering and the risk of waterborne disease and epidemics. In response to this emergency an amount of **EUR 1 000 000** has been added to this HIP to provide first response assistance to the victims of the flooding in Kerala, India, with a focus on WASH, Food, Shelter and Healthcare.

Fourth Modification 1/08/2018

Philippines - Mindanao crisis

Mindanao continues to face a low-intensity humanitarian emergency, stemming from decade-long neglect of the region by the central Government, occasional natural disasters and most notably armed violence. Six major rebel groups are active on the islands, and several radical offshoots with increasing influence by the so-called Islamic State. Various clan feuds in different regions further aggravate the situation for the civilian population. The humanitarian needs are mainly caused by displacement and lack of services, and destroyed or looted assets in areas of return. More than 270 000 people remain presently displaced (UNHCR) and 100 000 children are out of school (UNICEF). The overall number of people in need is estimated at more than 500 000. Since the beginning of July 2018, the ongoing military operations by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) against the Bangsamoro Independence Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and ISIS-Turaifie Group in Maguindanao region in Mindanao, have led to new displacements (more than 50 000 people). The Government response remains grossly insufficient. Funding is estimated at covering only some 20% of the needs (OCHA). In response to this emergency, an amount of **EUR 2 000 000** has been added to this HIP to provide life-saving assistance to the displaced people, and host communities in Mindanao, with a focus on food, WASH, shelter protection and emergency education.

Myanmar

Rohingya crisis

Following the late 2016 and 2017 exodus to Bangladesh, estimated figures indicate that up to 500 000 Rohingya remain in Rakhine State.

More than 200 000 Rohingya are confined in their villages in the northern Rakhine, while in Central Rakhine 120 000 Muslims are held captive in camps in dreadful circumstances and more than 200 000 are confined in their villages. Neither do they enjoy freedom of movement, nor legal status or benefit from basic social services. Most

of them remain dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs. The recent WFP-FAO CFSAM assessment describes a very serious food insecurity situation. Acute uncovered humanitarian needs remain in most of the sectors (nutrition, health, food security, wash, protection and shelter).

Kachin and northern Shan conflict

Since the conflict erupted in 2011, there have been 126 000 civilians in protracted forced displacement situation across Kachin and northern Shan states. The fighting between the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in Kachin State escalated significantly since mid-January and again in April 2018 leading to some of the most widespread displacements of civilians across the state in recent decades. The total number of civilians newly displaced in 2018 is estimated to be over 60 000 in Kachin and Northern Shan states. In light of the unmet gaps in food assistance, shelter, health, wash, and protection, additional funding is required to respond to the rapid escalation of the conflict in Kachin and Shan. Displaced people remain dependent on humanitarian assistance and insecurity prevents their return home.

In response to this emergency, an amount of **EUR 2 000 000** has been added to this HIP to provide life-saving assistance to the displaced people, and host communities in Myanmar, with a focus on protection, food, shelter and WASH.

Third Modification 4/04/2018

Rohingya crisis - Bangladesh

Since 25 August 2017, nearly 700,000 Rohingya refugees have fled Myanmar and sought safety in Cox's Bazar District of Bangladesh, bringing the total number of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh to over 1 million. Due to the large number of refugees and gaps in funding, there are large unmet needs in WASH, shelter, health, nutrition, food, protection and education sectors. The congested living conditions, the unsuitable topography of the camps and the lack of adequate basic services further expose the already vulnerable refugees to high risk of communicable disease outbreaks. In addition, the District is highly vulnerable to shocks, with the annual cyclone and monsoon seasons scheduled to start in April/May. The Bangladesh Joint Response Plan estimates at USD 950 million the financing requirements to cover the emergency needs of 1.3 million people in Cox's bazar during the period March-December 2018. In response to this emergency, an amount of **EUR 1 000 000** has been added to this HIP to continue providing life-saving assistance to the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, and host communities, with a focus on food assistance, nutrition, protection, water and sanitation. This funding is the remaining part of the total transfer of EUR 5 million from DG DEVCO agreed during the Geneva Pledging Conference in October 2017.

Second Modification 23/03/2018

Rohingya crisis - Bangladesh

Since 25 August 2017, nearly 700,000 Rohingya refugees have fled Myanmar and sought safety in Cox's Bazar District of Bangladesh. Due to the large number of refugees - with daily new arrivals - and gaps in funding, there are large unmet needs in WASH, shelter,

health, nutrition, food, protection and education sectors. The congested living conditions, the unsuitable topography of the camps and the lack of adequate basic services further expose the already vulnerable refugees to high risk of communicable disease outbreaks. In addition, the District is highly vulnerable to shocks, with the annual cyclone and monsoon seasons scheduled to start in April. Due to lack of adequate shelters and little infrastructure in place, the refugee settlements are particularly vulnerable to impact of rains and consequent flooding and landslides, with an estimated 150,000 refugees being at direct risk and requiring urgent relocation. The EUR 3 million of the HA envelope for Bangladesh of the present HIP has already been fully allocated for emergency lifesaving actions for the refugees. However, huge uncovered needs remain all sectors and there is an urgent the need to scale up the humanitarian assistance. It is therefore proposed to allocate to Bangladesh an additional **EUR 25 000 000** from the Emergency Aid Reserve.

First Modification 16/03/2018

Rohingya crisis - Bangladesh – Emergency DRR

Since 25 August 2017, nearly 700,000 Rohingya refugees have fled Myanmar and sought safety in Cox’s Bazar District of Bangladesh. The District is highly vulnerable to shocks, in an extremely fragile environment which has annual cyclone and monsoon seasons starting in April. With weak shelters and little infrastructure in place, the refugee settlements are particularly vulnerable to impact of rains. There is therefore urgent need to upgrade shelters and basic infrastructures, to pre-position shelter materials and essential household items for emergency response. At least 150,000 refugees are estimated to be at risk of direct impact by flood or landslide in their current locations, requiring urgent relocation. The EUR 3 million of the DRR envelope for Bangladesh of the present HIP has already been fully allocated for emergency DRR actions in view of the monsoon season. However, needs are huge and there is the need to scale up the urgent preparedness actions. It is therefore proposed to allocate an additional **EUR 4 000 000** to Bangladesh.

Context

This HIP covers the response to man-made and natural disasters, as well as Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and resilience activities in South, East, South-East Asia and the Pacific. In terms of humanitarian response, its focus is on Myanmar and Bangladesh, with the potential to respond to new disasters, but also on all the other countries of the region¹. With regard to DRR and resilience, the focus will be on Myanmar, Bangladesh, Philippines, Nepal and regional or multi-country initiatives in South-East Asia. DRR and preparedness will also be systematically mainstreamed into humanitarian assistance, as appropriate in each situation.

This is a densely populated region, with over 2 billion people, prone to a variety of natural disasters, with rapid urbanization rates and theatre of several conflicts and political volatility. Demographic pressure, poor urban planning, settlements in high-risk

¹ A total of 35 countries: South Asia (India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives, 6 countries), East and South-East Asia (ASEAN Member States, Timor Leste, China, Mongolia and DPRK, 14 countries), Pacific region (15 countries, not counting EU Member States overseas territories).

areas and reduced livelihood options lead to high vulnerability to more frequent, intense and unpredictable disasters. Due to rapid and unplanned urbanisation, urban communities are increasingly at risk.

Myanmar

The population is estimated at circa 51.5 million people, of which 40% are ethnic minorities. The country ranks 145 out of 187 in the 2016 UNDP Human Development Index and is highly prone to both man-made and natural disasters. As one of the 12 countries with the highest INFORM overall risk index (6.7), its risk dimensions have remained consistently elevated over the last 3 years (vulnerability index 6, hazard and exposure 7.5, lack of coping capacity 6.6). The Crisis Index score (3) underpins both the acute and protracted humanitarian needs generated by conflict and natural disasters (conflict intensity score: 7, uprooted people: 7.7). DG ECHO's Integrated Analysis Framework (IAF) for 2017 identified high humanitarian needs in Myanmar. The vulnerability of the population affected by the crises is assessed to be high. The country is categorised as a forgotten crisis.

Myanmar was under military ruling for almost 60 years and is still confronted with several ethno-nationalist insurgencies. Since 2010, the country has embarked on an ambitious transition process seeking to secure peace and democracy. Nevertheless, the country remains on the OECD list of fragile states, ranked 26th out of 178 countries in 2016. It remains one of the poorest countries in Asia, and lags behind its neighbours on most social and economic development indicators. Despite the 2016 election results and the continuation of the peace process, on-going conflicts in Kachin and Shan States have intensified and continued to produce multiple population displacements, amidst severe violations of IHL, in a context of protracted displacement.

In the North Rakhine State, a new wave of attacks of police, the army and border guard posts took place on 25 August 2017, leading to a large security operation. As of 11 November 2017, an estimated 611,000 people, the vast majority Rohingya, have crossed into Bangladesh, bringing the number of Rohingya refugees in the Cox's Bazar area of Bangladesh to nearly 900,000. An estimated 80% of which are women, children and elderly. Dozens of villages are reported to having been burned to the ground. The number of those displaced internally in North Rakhine is not possible to determine at present, due to the lack of humanitarian access. There is much concern about their increased vulnerability due to the conflict and related displacements. The humanitarian situation had already deteriorated since the 9 October 2016 attacks and the subsequent security clearance operation, during which an estimated 87 000 people crossed the border to seek refuge in Bangladesh, most of which women and children. In addition, 25 000 became displaced within North Rakhine, with several villages burnt to the ground. Severe human rights violations have been documented by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights through extensive interviews with those who fled to Bangladesh.

According to the UNHCR 2017 Global Trends study, the number of refugees from Myanmar rose to 490 300 by the end of 2016, from 451 800 in 2015, the 8th country of origin for the world's refugees. Of these, around 100 000 are in Thailand (half of them unregistered), despite a large third-country resettlement operation since 2005 (still on-going: 117 000 people resettled as of May 2017). Since 2011, there has been a slow but steady decrease in the camp population in Thailand, mainly due to the resettlement and spontaneous returns. For the time being, progress in voluntary returns - facilitated by the

UNHCR - amounts to just a few hundred. Unless further action is taken by Myanmar to encourage returns, the refugee caseload is likely to remain in Thailand for several years.

The country's vulnerability to natural disasters results in significant humanitarian needs that will continue for the foreseeable future whilst the Government is building its disaster management capacities. The number of people directly affected by the different humanitarian crises in Myanmar (including the refugees hosted in Thailand) is estimated at one million (approx. 2% of the total population).

Bangladesh

With a population of 161 million, Bangladesh ranks 139th in the 2016 UNDP Human Development Index and scores 5.8 in INFORM: 7.5/10 for hazards and exposure and 4.7/10 for vulnerability. The IAF for 2017 identified high humanitarian needs and the vulnerability of the population affected by the crises is continuously assessed to be very high. It is one of the Flagship Countries under the EU Resilience Action and is categorized as a forgotten crisis. Recurrent natural disasters and earthquake risks remain of great concern.

After the October 2016 events in the North Rakhine State, an estimated 87 000 Rohingyas fled from Myanmar and settled in the Cox's Bazar region of Bangladesh, where at least 200 000 Rohingya were already living. The August 2017 attacks and subsequent security operations have led to nearly 700 000 people taking refuge in Bangladesh. The headcount of so-called "undocumented Myanmar nationals", as the government of Bangladesh defines these refugees, started in 2016 but has not been concluded due to the new arrivals. Rohingya refugees remain amongst the most persecuted groups in the world; they lack freedom of movement and are not officially allowed to work. Repatriation to Myanmar has so far not been feasible and the Government of Bangladesh has not signed the UN Refugee Convention and therefore does not recognize the refugee status of the Rohingyas.

The country is exposed to frequent earthquakes, cyclones and flooding. The 2017 monsoon generated the worst floods in more than two decades, one third of the country was flooded and 8 million people were affected. Whilst prior DP/DRR actions contributed to saving lives, a concern remains about food insecurity given that large tracts of crops were destroyed by the flood. The Government's initiatives in cyclone and flood preparedness have much improved and community based rural disaster preparedness has made considerable progress. However, communities with high concentrations of Rohingya refugees are particularly vulnerable to floods and landslides. Awareness is slowly rising with regards to earthquake preparedness as densely populated areas, including the capital with more than 15 million people, sit on seismically active zones.

DRR

All countries of the region are highly prone to natural disasters (cyclones, floods, earthquakes, tsunami, landslides and droughts). Flooding associated with the monsoon is an annual event in most of the region. In Asia, in the last decade, more than 160 000 000 people in average per year have been affected by at least one type of natural disaster². Whilst National Governments' initial response is in many cases rapid and effective in

² Source: www.preventionweb.net

terms of search-and-rescue, early recovery frequently remain unaddressed leading to increased vulnerability and negative coping mechanisms, undermining people's resilience.

The most vulnerable households are often the most affected, particularly in remote regions and in situations where high frequency of natural disasters is combined with the consequences of conflicts and violence. In addition, the most fragile and marginalized communities have very low coping capacities. The main added-value of external assistance to victims of natural disasters in the region is addressing gaps in the coverage of relief operations and overcoming the barriers limiting access to social schemes.

All the countries of the region are considering actions to improve DRR and increase resilience. These include adopting or reinforcing legal frameworks and creating central disaster management bodies. However, the implementation of national disaster laws in different countries is very uneven. The Association of South-East Asia Nations (ASEAN) was the first regional body to adopt a legally binding document, the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER, entered into force on 24/12/2009). A new Plan of Action (2016-2020) was endorsed in April 2016, based on ASEAN's own priorities and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. On the South Asia side, regional developments are still on a much lower scale.

2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

1) People in need of humanitarian assistance

Myanmar

At the start of the year, the 2017 Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan mentioned 525 000 people in need of protection and/or other forms of humanitarian assistance, of which 52% are women, 50% children, 45% adults and 5% elderly. Disaggregated data indicates that 244 336 people are in need of protection.

UNHCR registered a marginal decrease in the number of "People of Concern" (PoC) in 2016 compared to 2015 (from 1.4 to 1.3 million), including 926 000 Stateless people (the largest caseload worldwide, mostly Rohingya) and 375 000 IDPs (240 000 in 2015).

In May 2017, Cyclone Mora affected over 200 000 people, causing extensive damage in both Central and Northern Rakhine. In the Maungdaw district, 90% of village tracts were affected, with over 50% of health structures suffering total or partial damage.

The August 2017 attacks in North Rakhine and the subsequent security operation have resulted in a situation where as much as 500 000 people could be in need of humanitarian assistance in the whole of Rakhine State. At the time of drafting this HIP there is still no access to North Rakhine and therefore it is not possible to assess the situation and the needs deriving from this new crisis.

Bangladesh

According to the Inter Sector Coordination Group, over 800 000 Rohingya refugees now live in several informal settlements and with host families. Those living in the extended makeshift camps are amongst the most vulnerable communities in Bangladesh. 80% of those who arrived after 25 August are women, children, or elderly. In May 2017, cyclone Mora hit Bangladesh (in particular Cox's Bazar where most Rohingya refugees live).

According to the Government of Bangladesh, the cyclone affected more than 3.3 million people, both camp residents and local communities.

2) *Description of the most acute humanitarian needs*

Myanmar

Rakhine State

The most acute humanitarian needs for conflict and violence-affected people are protection, food and livelihood support, nutrition (in Northern Rakhine acute malnutrition rates were above the WHO emergency threshold³ already before the 25 August attacks), shelter and non-food items, health (lack of access to basic healthcare and timely referrals continue to threaten the lives of pregnant women, infants and the chronically ill, particularly those in the Central Rakhine IDPs camps). In addition, psychological support including for victims of SGBV⁴, education, water and sanitation, camp management, coordination and emergency preparedness and response are also acute humanitarian needs to be addressed. Often communities are affected by a superposition of conflict and natural disasters: multi sector early recovery interventions are urgent priorities, in particular for the people affected by the violence in North Rakhine and cyclone Mora.

Kachin and Shan States

The most acute humanitarian needs are protection⁵, food assistance and livelihood support, education (including mine-risk education), shelter and non-food items, health, psychosocial support, water and sanitation, camp management and coordination particularly in areas outside government control.

Natural disasters

Given the country's vulnerability to natural disasters and limited local capacities, humanitarian needs increase in the aftermath of every middle and large disaster, or following a recurrence of smaller disasters impacting the same communities. Hence, DP/DRR and resilience are amongst the most acute humanitarian needs in Myanmar.

Bangladesh

In Cox's Bazar, protection is at the core of humanitarian needs due to the absence of a legal status for refugees. Global acute malnutrition rates remain persistently above the WHO emergency threshold. The situation is compounded by mental health issues, lack of proper access to water and sanitation and very limited access to livelihood opportunities. Women and children are at risk of SGBV and human trafficking is a general risk. In the makeshift camps, shelter repair or shelter improvement is urgently needed, in particular after the recent large inflows of refugees where there is a critical shelter shortage. The vulnerability of the host communities is also high, in particular in terms of WASH and limited livelihood opportunities. Humanitarian coordination remains critical, including advocacy for durable solutions.

³ Lack of humanitarian access has precluded assessments after the October 2016 events, but GAM rates were already above the WHO emergency threshold before. After cyclone Mora and the August 2017 events the situation is feared to have much deteriorated.

⁴ Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

⁵ Including presence of landmines and other Explosive Remnants of War, forced recruitment and use of children by armed forces, SGBV, human trafficking and other violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

Natural disasters

Given the country's propensity to natural disasters and the high vulnerability of many communities, humanitarian needs increase in the aftermath of every middle and large disaster, or following a recurrence of smaller disasters impacting the same communities, Hence DP/DRR and resilience are amongst the most acute humanitarian needs in Bangladesh.

3. Humanitarian Response

1) *National / local response and involvement*

Myanmar

The government's capacity to respond to humanitarian crises (man-made and natural disasters) is not sufficient to meet the prevailing needs. Furthermore, national/local authorities do not have the possibility to respond in areas beyond their control⁶. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is in charge of providing relief assistance to affected communities, as well as of the management of the Emergency Operations Centre. The Ministry of Border Affairs is *de facto* in charge of regulating assistance in border areas. The capacity of local NGOs is developing, in particular in Kachin and Shan States; ethnic tensions, complex and slow administrative procedures pose an added challenge for local NGOs in Rakhine State.

The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee has elaborated the Disaster Management Law, passed in August 2013, and a Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan which promotes various initiatives. They are complemented by the Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR). A Disaster Emergency Relief Fund is established at the central level to provide immediate relief when a disaster occurs.

In December 2014, the country's first social protection strategic plan, which establishes strong linkages between social protection programmes and DRR, was officially endorsed. The plan recognizes and promotes the use of a disaster and weather index insurance and contains references to the provision of cash transfers for disaster affected populations.

Bangladesh

In 2014, the government drafted a strategy on "undocumented Myanmar nationals", which has never been publicly disclosed, acknowledging the humanitarian needs of undocumented Rohingya refugees. However, protection concerns remain unaddressed following the headcount exercise that took place in 2016, although it has not yet been made public.

The government has demonstrated the effectiveness of its disaster preparedness measures, in particular in rural areas, and usually provides some assistance to those

⁶ i.e. in areas controlled by non-state armed groups.

affected by natural disasters. However, needs usually largely exceed the assistance offered and exclusion errors occur. For earthquake preparedness, clear gaps remain, in particular concerning urban spaces. Local NGOs have proven their capacity in DP/DRR and response to the most common disasters (floods and cyclones) but much learning is required for earthquake preparedness and response.

2) *International Humanitarian Response*

Myanmar

The 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) estimated humanitarian funding needs at USD 150.3 million (compared to USD 190 million in 2016). In February 2017, the CERF allocated USD 4.4 million to cover new needs related to the crisis in Northern Rakhine and an additional USD 2.2 million in July to contribute to Cyclone Mora response.

As of October 2017, the 2017 HRP is 62.6% funded (USD 94.1 million received). In addition, USD 17 800 000 has so far been allocated for humanitarian programs outside the HRP. The Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF), an OCHA-managed country based pooled fund to provide emergency response to urgent needs of people affected by natural disasters or conflict, has mobilized USD 31.4 million since 2007.

Along with DG ECHO, the main humanitarian donors are Japan, USA, UK, Switzerland, the CERF, Australia, Sweden, Germany, Denmark and Canada. DFID has introduced a new concept, the Burma Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience Programme (HARP). Over the next five years, DFID will provide up to GBP 108.5m to respond to humanitarian needs in the country and to refugees in Thailand.

The EU and the UK are the main contributors to the recently established multi-donor Joint Peace Fund, in support of a nationally owned and inclusive peace process. Other prominent donors of the peace fund are China, Norway, Japan, the UK, Australia and Switzerland. The EU also contributes to a number of Multi-Donor Trust Funds in the areas of Education, Rural Development and Health.

The Myanmar Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Management Project (DRMP), led by the World Bank, has allocated USD 116 million for initiatives to strengthen institutional capacity and minimize disaster risks. The funds will cover efforts to reduce the impact of flooding, improve the resilience of public facilities against earthquakes in Yangon, and enhance Myanmar government's capacity to facilitate disaster response.

Bangladesh

In October 2017, a draft HRP worth USD 434 million was published to address the Rohingya refugees crisis in Bangladesh. At the UN-led pledging conference for the Rohingya refugees in Geneva on 23 October 2017, co-hosted by the EU and Kuwait, a total of over USD 360 million was announced, including money pledged and committed since 25 August as well as new pledges. The EU with EUR 30 million, both for short and longer term support, was the highest new pledge. The humanitarian coordination mechanism works through an informal cluster system. However, timeliness of response,

identification of gaps, action planning and information management still need to be reinforced.

Along with EU development funds, the USA, Sweden, DFID and Australia support the official Rohingya refugee camps and host communities. USA and SIDA also provide support in the makeshift camps. There is less international response to regular recurrent natural disasters, such as floods, cyclones and landslides. The World Bank, JICA, USAID and DFID are now focusing on earthquake preparedness, in specific sectors such as infrastructure, and capacity building of government services to respond to an emergency and healthcare.

3) *Constraints and DG ECHO response capacity*

Myanmar

Access constraints have been a recurrent matter of concern with a serious deterioration observed in 2016 and 2017. Access to populations in need in Northern Rakhine was denied after the October 2016 events during 3-4 months for humanitarian national staff and up to 7 months for internationals. Since 25 August 2017 access has again been completely cut off, except for the Red Cross Movement, whose capacity is insufficient to address the magnitude of needs. It is also unclear what the reach of this operation is and whether those most in need are actually being reached. Cumbersome and lengthy procedures to obtain visas, travel authorizations and Memoranda of Understanding lead to delays in assessments, delivery and monitoring of humanitarian aid and at times altogether blocks assessments and aid delivery.

Security concerns and hostility by some groups (in particular in the Rakhine State) hinder effective implementation. Additionally, administrative impediments and the poor performance of Camp Management Committees hinder the capacity to address some of the most pressing humanitarian needs in the IDP camps in the Central Rakhine State.

In Kachin and Shan States local NGOs, which used to have greater (but far from unrestricted) humanitarian access to non-Government controlled areas, are also experiencing additional restrictions imposed by the authorities.

Bangladesh

Access for humanitarian assessments is possible after natural disasters. However, implementation requires government approval, which can be a lengthy process and is not always successful. Security is a common constraint. Socio-political strife can hamper access and logistics are challenging in areas like the coastal belt and Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), where access is at times not granted. Humanitarian activities in Cox's Bazar are limited to life-saving activities and short term solutions. Provision of assistance to unregistered Rohingya is challenging and restricted. Humanitarian coordination, in particular in Cox's Bazar, remains challenging but has been eased following the recent mass influx from Myanmar.

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

The table below resumes initial DG ECHO 2018 allocations in South, East and South-East Asia.

Million EUR

Country	HA	DRR	Total
Myanmar	7	2	9
Bangladesh	3	3	6
Philippines	0	1	1
Nepal	0	2	2
Regional SEA	0	2	2
Total	10	10	20

Myanmar:

Rakhine State

In areas affected by violence, as soon as access resumes: protection (including inter-community tension mitigation), shelter and non-food items, food assistance and livelihood support (including cooking fuel), nutrition, health care and psychosocial support (including to victims of SGBV), education, water and sanitation, camp management, targeted and mainstreamed DRR. At this stage, due to access constraints, it is not possible to assess the exact number of people in need of humanitarian assistance, but it is estimated at more than 500 000, including the 120 000 IDPs in Central Rakhine.

In addition to the above, given the high Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates, if/when humanitarian access resumes, DG ECHO will continue to support the development of a comprehensive nutrition and food security strategy, comprising an expansion of Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme. Interventions complementing Government's assistance to the people displaced after the October 2016 and August 2017 events and those affected by cyclone Mora could be considered, provided authorizations are granted by the authorities.

Kachin and Shan States

In conflict-affected areas: protection, climate-adapted shelter and non-food items, camp/settlement management, water and sanitation, food assistance and livelihood support, health services, education including mine risk awareness, local partners' capacity-building (including cash-based programming, data analysis and reporting, emergency response mechanisms).

In all geographical areas, cash-based assistance will be privileged whenever appropriate, relevant and safe.

Opportunities for advocacy will be sought in relation to both contexts, ranging from respect of IHL to humanitarian access and freedom of movements for all affected communities.

Bangladesh

The priority will be for life-saving and supporting operations for Rohingya refugees and host communities, with a focus in Cox's Bazar (Leda, Kutupalong, Balukhali, Shamlapur and the new settlements that are being set up post-August 2017). Sectors prioritized are: health, WASH, nutrition, food and livelihoods, basic shelter and protection (including to victims of SGBV). The population of the makeshift camps is now at over 800 000. Cash-based assistance will be pursued, if accepted by the GoB and if appropriate and safe for the beneficiaries.

Advocacy will be pursued to ensure that stakeholders adhere to humanitarian principles, safeguard humanitarian space, service provision and promote durable solutions. Humanitarian assistance to Rohingya refugees and host communities needs to encourage increased access to self-reliance activities, for which the government's assent is necessary.

Natural disasters

All the countries mentioned under section 1 are disaster-prone. DRR, preparedness and contingency planning shall be appropriately factored into all humanitarian assistance in the case of DG ECHO's response to natural disasters during 2018; when relevant, this will also be included in the response to man-made disasters.

Should new natural disasters occur in the region, entailing a high humanitarian impact, DG ECHO could adapt this HIP and increase its budget and/or use the Emergency Toolbox HIP (Epidemics, Small-Scale Response and DREF) to provide humanitarian assistance to the victims, provided that the outstanding needs surpass the local capacity to respond.

DRR

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 defines 7 global targets and 4 priority areas, through up to 91 types of actions. DG ECHO intends to contribute to its dissemination and implementation through this HIP. The core focus of actions should be put on: a) preparedness for an emergency response and b) promotion of early actions by governments. An overview of the priorities is listed here below (for detailed guidance, see the Technical Annex attached to this HIP):

- Myanmar: consolidation of the DP achievements and extension of earthquake and tsunami preparedness initiatives, piloting new urban DRR and resilience actions and improved preparedness for emergency response.
- Bangladesh: Earthquake urban preparedness and cyclone/flood preparedness in areas with high refugee concentrations (Cox's Bazar).
- Philippines: consolidation of the urban preparedness initiatives.

- Nepal: Focus on the earthquake and floods affected areas to reach the most vulnerable groups through innovative approaches, aiming to rebuild their houses and improve their livelihoods and resilience.
- Regional South-East Asia (ASEAN): All actions will contribute to the implementation of the AADMER work programme for 2016-2020. DG ECHO's actions will focus on multi-country or regional actions aiming at strengthening regional and national response capacities.

In-line with DG ECHO's commitment to promote resilience, further attention will be given to integrating a risk reduction approach in humanitarian assistance operations from the initial response to natural or man-made disasters.

In addition, all humanitarian interventions funded by DG ECHO must take into consideration, together with other protection concerns, any risk of gender-based violence and develop and implement appropriate strategies to prevent such risks. Moreover, in line with its life-saving mandate, DG ECHO encourages the establishment of quality, comprehensive and safe GBV response services since the onset of emergencies, in line with DG ECHO's 2013 Gender policy⁷.

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

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

4. LRRD, COORDINATION AND TRANSITION

1) Other DG ECHO interventions

The table below resumes DG ECHO 2017 allocations for South, East and South-East Asia.

<i>Million EUR</i>				
Country	Humanitarian Aid	DRR	Emergency Toolbox	Total
Myanmar ⁸	5.7	3		8.7
Bangladesh ⁹	13	3		16
Regional SA ¹⁰	2			2

⁷ Gender Age Marker Toolkit, DG ECHO, 2013 - http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/gender_age_marker_toolkit.pdf; Gender Sensitive Aid, DG ECHO, 2017 - http://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/gender-sensitive-aid_en

⁸ In addition, EUR 3.4 million were allocated in December 2016 and implemented in 2017.

⁹ In addition, EUR 0.5 million were allocated in December 2016 and implemented in 2017.

¹⁰ Rohingya regional crisis in Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Regional SEA	2	1.7		3.7
Philippines	1.575	1.2	0.2	2.975
Nepal	0.8	3	0.2	4
Bhutan		0.5		0.5
Cambodia		1		1
Mongolia		0.5		0.5
Vietnam		0.8		0.8
India			0.197	0.197
Sri Lanka ¹¹				
Total	25.075	14.7	0.597	39.775

2) Other concomitant EU interventions

Across the region and during the last years, DG ECHO has increased advocacy on humanitarian access, the centrality of protection, respect for IHL and durable solutions. These remain key priorities for DG ECHO, particularly in countries affected by protracted crises. The support and collaboration from the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) remain essential to achieve results in these matters. Interaction between DG ECHO and DEVCO has significantly increased in a number of countries in 2017, where DEVCO actions have taken over previous DG ECHO short term programmes. Progress is uneven, but DG ECHO remains committed to further engage with DEVCO and other development donors.

At the regional level, DG ECHO maintains a permanent interaction with the EU Delegation to ASEAN (Jakarta), regarding the support to the ASEAN agenda on disaster management and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA). The same applies to the Foreign Policy Instrument, as a regional hub has been set at the EU Delegation in Bangkok, where DG ECHO also has a regional office.

Myanmar

The EU Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for 2014-2020 (EUR 688 million) targets four sectors: 1) Rural Development, Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security; 2) Education; 3) Governance, Rule of Law and State Capacity Building; and 4) Peace Building Support. In addition, Myanmar will continue to receive support under other EU thematic and regional instruments and programmes, covering a wide range of issues,

¹¹ In addition, EUR 0.3 million were allocated in December 2016 and implemented in 2017

including democracy and human rights, civil society, environment and climate change, human development, sustainable energy and trade. The EU has also been supporting refugees living in camps in Thailand, in addition to its interventions in conflict-affected areas of the east of the country (not covered by the HRP), providing assistance in the context of protracted displacement and is developing nutrition sensitive livelihood interventions in Northern Rakhine.

Bangladesh

The EU Multiannual Indicative Program for 2014-2020 (EUR 690 million) prioritizes human rights, food security and nutrition, as well as education and skills development. DG ECHO has moved away from the provision of food assistance in the CHT and nutrition support, in line with the EU resilience agenda, to make room for DEVCO's longer term food security and nutrition support. Waterlogged areas in the South West, for which DG ECHO provided humanitarian assistance in past years, are now included in DEVCO and DFID's "Resilient Livelihoods" programme. A new action titled "Support for Enhancing Communities' Resilience to Climate Change and Related Disasters" for a total value of EUR 8 million funded by the Global Climate Change Alliance + Flagship Initiative (GCCA+) is due to start in 2018.

DRR

The second focal sector of the EU cooperation with ASEAN is Climate Change, Environment and Disaster Management. The overall tentative allocation under this sector for the period 2016-2010 is EUR 60 million. Beyond the current E-READI facility and the ongoing ASEAN Emergency Management Project (AMMP), EUR 2.27 million, the EU's engagement with ASEAN in the specific area of Disaster Management is articulated along 2 programmes: 1) Integrated Programme for Strengthening the Capacity of AHA Centre and ASEAN Emergency Response Mechanism (EU-SAHA, EUR 10 million). The programme is expected to start being implemented in 2017 2) a future programme supporting ASEAN Safe School and Environmental Education (EUR 10 million). The identification phase is scheduled for late 2017 for an initiation in 2018.

3) Other donors availability

Myanmar

Development donors remain reluctant to invest in fragile contexts, even though conflict-sensitive development funding is strongly recommended in the Rakhine State in particular. Conflict in Kachin and Shan States is likely to last several years and its effect on mental and physical health, as well as on the nutrition status and on education for children and youth, will entail longer term poverty, vulnerability and instability. The current approach of providing only basic relief assistance to a subgroup of those affected, primarily displaced people, is not adequate. More development assistance for conflict-affected areas and populations is needed to support the Government's pursuit of durable solutions, reduce overcrowding in displaced people's settlements and support host communities.

Bangladesh

Waterlogged areas in the South West are now included in DEVCO's and DFID's "Resilient Livelihoods" programmes. Other donors with a keen interest to invest in livelihoods and resilience in Bangladesh are USAid, AUSAid, CIDA and the Scandinavian countries. The massive exodus of Rohingya refugees post-August 2017 has called the attention of a number of potential new donors, including a number of EU countries, Turkey and Japan.

4) Exit scenarios

Myanmar

The democratic transition which initially triggered a cautiously optimistic outlook is proven to be challenging, with a multiplication and increased intensity of conflicts as well as a serious deterioration of the situation in Northern Rakhine. The latter carries multiple risks including increased radicalization of diverse groups, international migration and human trafficking. Reactions by some groups against Governmental efforts to address the Rohingya issue are generating tensions at the national level, with Muslim communities targeted in different regions. The citizenship verification exercise and lifting of movement restrictions are very sensitive processes, in relation to which dramatic improvements are not likely to happen in the short term. These challenges and the protracted nature of the crises that keep generating acute humanitarian needs do not allow for a quick phase out of humanitarian aid.

Bangladesh

The EU Resilience Flagship initiative is the main vector of DG ECHO's exit strategy from non-emergency situations, which are now supported under the common framework of long-term actions agreed by DEVCO and DFID. The CHT, coastal belt, islands and Cox's Bazar are the priority areas for transition into development programmes. Whilst the other geographical areas are progressing satisfactorily, a particular challenge is posed by the situation in Cox's Bazar, where the protracted nature of the Rohingya crisis, the acute vulnerability of the refugees and the worsening situation in Rakhine State, do not allow for a phase out of humanitarian aid in the near future.