

ANNEX

Operational priorities for Union-funded humanitarian aid operational priorities for 2023 under Regulation (EC) No 1257/96

1. INTRODUCTION

On the basis of the objectives set out in Articles 1, 2 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96, the following actions constitute the operational priorities for the Union's humanitarian aid operational priorities for year 2023 and are to be financed accordingly:

- actions awarded through grants and implemented under direct management (section 2),
- actions performed through procurement and implemented under direct management (section 3),
- actions implemented under indirect management (section 4),
- other actions or expenditure (section 5),
- to be implemented in accordance with EU restrictive measures (section 6).

Legal basis

Articles 15(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96.

Budget lines

budget line 14 03 01

budget line 14 03 02

Objectives pursued

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

The Union's humanitarian aid may also cover those countries of a given region, identified in Appendix 2 based on known vulnerabilities, for which no indicative initial allocation can be provided. The Union's humanitarian aid may also cover overseas countries and territories pursuant to Decision 2013/755/EU.

Appendix 1 to this Annex reflects the allocations by actions listed in Article 1(1) of the Decision to which this Annex is attached.

Appendix 2 to this Annex gives an indication of the planned allocations by countries/regions.

Outlook for 2023

The global humanitarian context in 2023 will most likely remain challenging and similar to the 2022 context in terms of intensity, range and duration of natural disasters and human-induced crises including armed conflicts and outbreaks of fighting. This will therefore result in a similar or increased number of people in need of humanitarian aid. The COVID-19 global pandemic and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine have further exacerbated an already dire situation, with a severe impact on the vulnerabilities of crises-affected populations. It is further important to ensure that the response to new and often highly visible crises does not detract from addressing other existing, protracted or recurrent humanitarian crises.

In this context and for each crisis, the European Commission conducts a specific qualitative evaluation of the needs of a country/region in order to gain insight into the nature and the severity of the needs. This is combined with the quantitative index for risk management (INFORM Risk), based on three sets of indicators (hazard and exposure, vulnerability and lack of coping capacity), a crisis severity assessment (INFORM Severity), and the forgotten crisis assessment (FCA). These evaluations and tools provide the framework for determining the areas of greatest needs based on which funds are allocated.

Human-induced humanitarian crises, resulting from wars with often widespread violations of international humanitarian law, conflicts or outbreaks of violence are the main source of humanitarian needs in the world and therefore account for a large proportion of them. In these crises, such as in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Venezuela, Libya, Myanmar/Bangladesh, South Sudan, Central Sahel, Ethiopia, Somalia, the Great Lakes region, Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and the Central African Republic, the EU's humanitarian interventions address life-saving needs and protect millions of vulnerable people, including forcibly displaced people or trapped populations, as well as host communities. In many contexts, access and security problems make the delivery of aid particularly difficult or dangerous. The needs resulting from such crises may be further exacerbated by disasters triggered by natural hazards, such as drought or floods, fuelled by climate change. The

interaction of climate, environmental and conflict risks is aggravating existing vulnerabilities and inequalities and is affecting humanitarian needs, particularly for the most vulnerable populations and in conflict-affected areas. Disasters and extreme weather conditions may impede some interventions and may also require a rapid redirecting of available funds to meet the new priority needs of the affected populations. The Union's funding may also be awarded in response to recurrent disasters caused by specific meteorological patterns, such as seasonal monsoons, hurricanes, typhoons and cyclones or geological phenomena, such as earthquakes.

Across the different scenarios mentioned, the Union's humanitarian funding will continue to prioritise a needs-based approach as well as an integrated multi-sectoral or cross-sectoral approach to programming that aims to meet the affected populations' needs. At the same time, in 2023, the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) will further enhance its risk-based approach by further promoting anticipatory actions and increasingly factoring climate and environmental risks into its actions, with the minimum environmental requirements becoming mandatory from 2023¹. Ensuring the protection of those affected as well as ensuring access to quality education in emergencies will also continue to be a priority of Union's humanitarian funding.

Wherever possible, efforts will be made from the outset to work with development and other actors and instruments in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, building the resilience of the most vulnerable populations, and preparing the conditions for longer-term sustainable engagement by national and international development and stabilisation/peacebuilding instruments and programmes.

Expected results

The intrinsic features of humanitarian aid save the lives and address the basic needs of populations affected by natural disasters and human-induced disasters. This will contribute to making the concerned beneficiaries better prepared and more resilient to future disasters and crisis and in turn promote stronger stability in third countries.

This action is further expected to lay the ground – where possible and appropriate – for a smooth transition towards development aid and equivalent forms of longer-term structural assistance, including the provision of basic services by the concerned authorities.

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

¹ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/climate-change-and-environment_en

2. GRANTS

The estimated global budget reserved for grants amounts to EUR 1 025 000 000.

2.1. Providing humanitarian aid to vulnerable people affected by disasters and crises

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) satisfying the eligibility and suitability criteria provided for in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 including but not limited to those NGOs to which the Commission, as represented by its Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), has awarded the EU Humanitarian Partnership Certificate.

Member States' specialised agencies referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96.

Description of the activities to be funded by grants awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation.

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

Implementation

Grants will be awarded and managed under direct management by DG ECHO.

Pursuant to Article 193(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation, costs incurred by a grant beneficiary before the date of submission of the application will be eligible for Union financing. This is because early intervention by the Union is of major importance to enable humanitarian organisations to effectively address and meet humanitarian needs in the field as early as possible when they occur or when there is good cause to believe that such needs will arise in the near future.

Pursuant to Article 204 of the Financial Regulation, grant beneficiaries may provide financial support of more than EUR 60 000 to third parties to implement actions if the action's objectives of the action would otherwise be impossible, or excessively difficult, to achieve. Such situations can occur, for example, in cases where only a limited number of non-profit, non-governmental organisations have the capacity, skills or expertise to help implement the action or are established in the country of operation or in the region(s) where the action takes place.

To ensure broad geographical/worldwide coverage while minimising costs and avoiding duplications (e.g. double presence in a country), many humanitarian organisations have turned to networking through families or confederations, for instance. In such a context, the situations referred to above would imply that the beneficiary would provide financial support to other members of the network.

2.2. Providing first initial response

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

NGOs satisfying the eligibility and suitability criteria provided for in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96, including but not limited to those NGOs to which the Commission, as represented by DG ECHO, has awarded the EU Humanitarian Partnership Certificate.

Member States' specialised agencies referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96.

Description of the activities to be funded by grants awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation and specific grants directly awarded.

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

Emergency humanitarian needs aggravated by the recurrence of disasters, even those of small-scale disasters or those requiring a limited and isolated intervention, are also addressed by the funding under this Decision. This covers also DG ECHO's support to the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund as well as grants for epidemic outbreaks. In such cases, a flexible humanitarian intervention should be sought in order to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs and enhance at the local level the preparedness of the most vulnerable populations, in particular local communities, affected by these disasters where there are significant unmet needs.

Implementation

Grants will be awarded and managed under direct management by DG ECHO.

Pursuant to Article 193(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation, costs incurred by a grant beneficiary before the date of submission of the application will be eligible for Union financing. This is because early intervention by the Union is of major importance to enable humanitarian organisations to effectively address and meet humanitarian needs in the field as early as possible when they occur or when there is good cause to believe that such needs will arise in the near future.

Pursuant to Article 204 of the Financial Regulation, grant beneficiaries may provide financial support of more than EUR 60 000 to third parties to implement actions if the action's objectives of the action would otherwise be impossible, or excessively difficult, to achieve. Such situations can occur, for example, in cases where only a limited number of non-profit, non-governmental organisations have the capacity, skills or expertise to help implement the action or are established in the country of operation or in the region(s) where the action takes place.

To ensure broad geographical/worldwide coverage while minimising costs and avoiding duplications (e.g. double presence in a country), many humanitarian organisations have turned to networking through families or confederations, for instance. In such a context, the situations referred to above would imply that the beneficiary would provide financial support to other members of the network.

2.3. European Humanitarian Response Capacity

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

NGOs satisfying the eligibility and suitability criteria provided for in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 including but not limited to those NGOs to which the Commission, as represented by DG ECHO, has awarded the EU Humanitarian Partnership Certificate.

Member States' specialised agencies referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96.

Description of the activities to be funded by grants awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation and specific grants directly awarded

To continue developing and implementing the European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC), with the purpose of filling operational gaps in the humanitarian response to natural hazards and human-induced disasters. The EHRC helps to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance where the humanitarian community struggles to provide support. It will also help cover the immediate needs of the affected population. The EHRC consists of three pillars:

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

The EHRC as a whole will be implemented through various arrangements. DG ECHO may carry out some actions directly, while implementing organisations may indirectly manage others.

Implementation

Grants will be awarded and managed under direct management by DG ECHO.

Pursuant to Article 193(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation, costs incurred by a grant beneficiary before the date of submission of the application will be eligible for Union financing. This is because early intervention by the Union is of major importance to enable humanitarian organisations to effectively address and meet humanitarian needs in the field as early as possible when they occur or when there is good cause to believe that such needs will arise in the near future.

Pursuant to Article 204 of the Financial Regulation, grant beneficiaries may provide financial support of more than EUR 60 000 to third parties to implement actions if the action's objectives of the action would otherwise be impossible, or excessively difficult, to achieve. Such situations can occur, for example, in cases where only a limited number of non-profit, non-governmental organisations have the capacity, skills or expertise to help implement the action or are established in the country of operation or in the region(s) where the action takes place.

To ensure broad geographical/worldwide coverage while minimising costs and avoiding duplications (e.g. double presence in a country), many humanitarian organisations have turned to networking through families or confederations, for instance. In such a context, the situations referred to above would imply that the beneficiary would provide financial support to other members of the network.

2.4. Disaster preparedness

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

NGOs satisfying the eligibility and suitability criteria provided for in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 including but not limited to those NGOs to which the Commission, as represented by DG ECHO, has awarded the EU Humanitarian Partnership Certificate.

Member States' specialised agencies referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96.

Description of the activities to be funded by grants awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation and specific grants directly awarded.

To support strategies and complement existing strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for, mitigate and respond adequately to disasters by enhancing their capacities to anticipate, cope and respond, thereby increasing early response, resilience to shocks and reducing vulnerability.

Local communities are particularly vulnerable to disasters, shocks and stresses. These cause significant losses both in social and economic terms as people's lives are not only at risk, but they often lose their livelihood and land and might even be displaced. When the countries concerned have insufficient capacities to cope with the impact of disasters on the population, aggravated even further by climate change, international support is needed to help them be better prepared. Disaster preparedness actions aim at reducing the impact of disasters and crises on populations, allowing early warning, anticipatory and early action to better assist those affected.

Implementation

Grants will be awarded and managed under direct management by DG ECHO.

Pursuant to Article 193(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation, costs incurred by a grant beneficiary before the date of submission of the application will be eligible for Union financing. This is because early intervention by the Union is of major importance to enable humanitarian organisations to effectively address and meet humanitarian needs in the field as early as possible when they occur or when there is good cause to believe that such needs will arise in the near future.

Pursuant to Article 204 of the Financial Regulation, grant beneficiaries may provide financial support of more than EUR 60 000 to third parties to implement actions if the action's objectives of the action would otherwise be impossible, or excessively difficult, to achieve. Such situations can occur, for example, in cases where only a limited number of non-profit, non-governmental organisations have the capacity, skills or expertise to help implement the action or are established in the country of operation or in the region(s) where the action takes place.

To ensure broad geographical/worldwide coverage while minimising costs and avoiding duplications (e.g. double presence in a country), many humanitarian organisations have turned to networking through families or confederations, for instance. In such a context, the situations referred to above would imply that the beneficiary would provide financial support to other members of the network.

2.5. Enhanced Response Capacity

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

NGOs satisfying the eligibility and suitability criteria provided for in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 including but not limited to those NGOs to which the Commission, as represented by DG ECHO, has awarded the EU Humanitarian Partnership Certificate.

Member States specialised agencies referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96.

Description of the activities to be funded by grants awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation and specific grants directly awarded

To support the development of innovative approaches, policies, methodologies and tools, as well as capacity building in coordination and preparedness to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian aid delivery. With global humanitarian needs continuing to increase, the capacity of humanitarian actors to respond has been stretched to the limit. In line with the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid² that ‘(...) *supporting the development of the collective global capacity to respond to humanitarian crises is one of the fundamental tenants of our [EU] approach*’, the Commission is committed to making humanitarian aid more coherent, of better quality and more effective. This action will thus support activities contributing to increase humanitarian capacity to deliver efficient and effective aid to people in need, increase their preparedness for disasters, and enhance existing policy frameworks.

Implementation

Grants will be awarded and managed under direct management by DG ECHO.

Pursuant to Article 193(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation, costs incurred by a grant beneficiary before the date of submission of the application will be eligible for Union financing. This is because early intervention by the Union is of major importance to enable humanitarian organisations to effectively address and meet humanitarian needs in the field as early as possible when they occur or when there is good cause to believe that such needs will arise in the near future.

Pursuant to Article 204 of the Financial Regulation, grant beneficiaries may provide financial support of more than EUR 60 000 to third parties to implement actions if the action’s objectives of the action would otherwise be impossible, or excessively difficult, to achieve. Such situations can occur, for example, in cases where only a limited number of non-profit, non-governmental organisations have the capacity, skills or expertise to help implement the action or are established in the country of operation or in the region(s) where the action takes place.

² OJ C 25, 30.1.2008, p 1.

To ensure broad geographical/worldwide coverage while minimising costs and avoiding duplications (e.g. double presence in a country), many humanitarian organisations have turned to networking through families or confederations, for instance. In such a context, the situations referred to above would imply that the beneficiary would provide financial support to other members of the network.

2.6. Policy support – Reinforcing networking between humanitarian non-governmental organisations

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and organisation representing them referred to in Article 4, sixth indent, of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96.

Description of the activities to be funded by grants awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation and specific grants directly awarded

The broad application of DG ECHO policy products requires drawing upon best practice in delivering humanitarian assistance delivery. Reinforcing networking between DG ECHO-certified partners is an important part of this. Furthermore, this exchange is important for pursuing issues related to the humanitarian principles, as well as for broader policy dissemination to improve operational implementation. The aim is to enhance cooperation and coordination between European humanitarian NGOs, reinforce networking, and strengthen the collective influence of NGOs in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance projects.

Implementation

This specific activity of strengthening the coordination with NGOs will be implemented by VOICE (Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies) under direct management by DG ECHO. The total operating grant will be of an amount up to EUR 250 000. The award of a direct grant to VOICE is justified by the fact that the grant beneficiary has a *de facto* monopoly as referred to in Article 195(c) of the Financial Regulation.

VOICE is a European network representing 85 non-profit humanitarian organisations with their main headquarters in an EU Member State. It further comprises a certain number of DG ECHO certified partners as active members of the network and as members of the network's steering board or committee of the network.

VOICE is a unique organisation combining a broad network of European NGOs, which work in a significant range of humanitarian areas relevant to DG ECHO's activities. These advantages specific to VOICE have been demonstrated through VOICE's track record when working with DG ECHO.

2.7. Humanitarian logistics policy: supporting the paradigm shift

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

NGOs satisfying the eligibility and suitability criteria provided for in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 including but not limited to those NGOs to which the Commission, as represented by DG ECHO, has awarded a certificate.

Member States' specialised agencies referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96.

Description of the activities to be funded by grants awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation and specific grants directly awarded.

In 2022 DG ECHO launched its Humanitarian Logistics Policy, which recognises that logistics is cross-sectoral and that 60-80% of humanitarian funding is used for the supply chain and highlights that there are significant opportunities for efficiency and effectiveness gains; however these opportunities require a more strategic, programmatic and innovative approach to humanitarian logistics.

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

Implementation

Grants will be awarded and managed under direct management by DG ECHO.

Pursuant to Article 193(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation, costs incurred by a grant beneficiary before the date of submission of the application will be eligible for Union financing. This is because early intervention by the Union is of major importance to enable humanitarian organisations to effectively address and meet humanitarian needs in the field as early as possible when they occur or when there is good cause to believe that such needs will arise in the near future.

Pursuant to Article 204 of the Financial Regulation, grant beneficiaries may provide financial support of more than EUR 60 000 to third parties to implement actions if the action's objectives of the action would otherwise be impossible, or excessively difficult, to achieve. Such situations can occur, for example, in cases where only a limited number of non-profit, non-governmental organisations have the capacity, skills or expertise to help implement the action or are established in the country of operation or in the region(s) where the action takes place.

To ensure broad geographical/worldwide coverage while minimising costs and avoiding duplications e.g. double presence in a country), many humanitarian organisations have turned to networking through families or confederations, for instance. In such a context, the situations referred to above would imply that the beneficiary would provide financial support to other members of the network.

3. PROCUREMENT

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2023 amounts to EUR 10 375 000.

3.1. European Humanitarian Response Capacity

General description of the contracts envisaged

To continue developing and implementing the European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC), with the purpose of filling operational gaps in the humanitarian response to natural hazards and human-induced disasters. The EHRC helps to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance where the humanitarian community struggles to provide support. It will also help cover the immediate needs of the affected population. The EHRC consists of three pillars:

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

The EHRC as a whole will be implemented through various arrangements. DG ECHO may carry out some actions directly, while implementing organisations may indirectly manage others.

Implementation

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

3.2. Providing first initial response

General description of the contracts envisaged

DG ECHO may decide to use appropriations available under the epidemic component of the Emergency Toolbox to procure medical evacuation operations to be carried out by appropriate service providers.

Implementation

The medical evacuation contract(s) will be awarded and managed under direct management by DG ECHO.

3.3. Public awareness and information

Public awareness and information

General description of the contracts envisaged

To increase awareness and understanding of, and support to, humanitarian issues and the EU as the global leader in humanitarian aid, especially in Europe and in third countries where the Union is funding major humanitarian

operations through public awareness actions and information campaigns. Communication actions in 2023 will also contribute, where appropriate, to the Commission's corporate communication, and will complement the mandatory visibility and communication actions delivered by the EU-funded partners.

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

Implementation

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

3.4 Policy support framework contract

General description of the contracts envisaged

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

Implementation

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

4. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED IN INDIRECT MANAGEMENT

4.1. Providing humanitarian aid to vulnerable people affected by disasters and crises

Implementing entities

Entities which were subject to a successful *ex ante* assessment in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a financial framework partnership agreement concluded for humanitarian aid (International Committee of the Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) or signatories of the financial and administrative framework agreement concluded between the Commission and United Nations entities.

International organisations, such as United Nations' organisations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as Member States' specialised agencies may have specific expertise, singular capacities, privileges and access, notably related to their mandate, for effectively delivering humanitarian aid. The use of such entities under indirect management is therefore necessary for implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid operations addressing the full spectrum of humanitarian needs, which cannot all be addressed solely through direct management with NGOs (and procurement).

The entities to be entrusted with implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid actions will be selected based on the merits of the proposals for humanitarian aid actions submitted to the Commission in response to any

invitation to submit proposals emanating from DG ECHO (including when the said invitation takes the form of Humanitarian Implementation Plans).

Description

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

Implementation

Indirect management.

4.2. Providing first initial response

Implementing entities

Entities which were subject to a successful *ex ante* assessment in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a financial framework partnership agreement concluded for humanitarian aid (International Committee of the Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) or signatories of the financial and administrative framework agreement concluded between the Commission and United Nations entities.

International Organisations, such as United Nations' Organisations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as Member States' specialised agencies may have specific expertise, singular capacities, privileges and access, notably related to their mandate, for effectively delivering humanitarian aid. The use of such entities under indirect management is therefore necessary for implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid operations addressing the full spectrum of humanitarian needs, which cannot all be addressed solely through direct management with NGOs (and procurement).

The entities to be entrusted with implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid actions will be selected based on the merits of the proposals for humanitarian aid actions submitted to the Commission in response to any invitation to submit proposals emanating from DG ECHO (including when the said invitation takes the form of Humanitarian Implementation Plans).

Description

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

Sudden onset large-scale disasters have an enormous impact on the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable populations. In many countries, the effects of a disaster especially when combined with high levels of

vulnerability and insufficient local capacities to address them, i.e. prepare, mitigate or prevent them, may have a devastating impact. How quickly needs are addressed within the first few days is critical. The Acute and large emergency response tool (ALERT) allows the European Commission to rapidly respond to sudden large-scale natural and technological disasters and cover the immediate needs of those most vulnerable in the hours and days after an emergency or a new humanitarian crisis.

Emergency humanitarian needs aggravated by the recurrence of disasters, even those of small-scale disasters or those requiring a limited and isolated intervention, are also addressed by the funding under this Decision. This covers also DG ECHO's support to the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund as well as grants for epidemic outbreaks. In such cases, a flexible humanitarian intervention should be sought in order to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs and enhance at the local level the preparedness of the most vulnerable populations, in particular local communities, affected by these disasters where there are significant unmet needs.

Implementation

Indirect management.

4.3. European Humanitarian Response Capacity

Implementing entities

Entities which were subject to a successful *ex ante* assessment in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a financial framework partnership agreement concluded for humanitarian aid (International Committee of the Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) or signatories of the financial and administrative framework agreement concluded between the Commission and United Nations entities.

Organisations of the United Nations and Red Cross families as well as Member States' specialised agencies may have specific expertise, singular capacities, privileges and access, notably related to their mandate, for effectively delivering humanitarian aid. The use of such entities under indirect management is therefore necessary for implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid operations addressing the full spectrum of humanitarian needs, which cannot all be addressed solely through direct management with NGOs (and procurement).

The entities to be entrusted with implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid actions will be selected based on the merits of the proposals for humanitarian aid actions submitted to the Commission in response to any invitation to submit proposals emanating from DG ECHO (including when the said invitation takes the form of Humanitarian Implementation Plans).

The entities to be entrusted with the implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid actions consisting of or including the provision of humanitarian aid transportation will be selected based on the extent to which they are able to satisfy the following requirements:

1. possessing extensive knowledge, experience and capacity in managing humanitarian air transportation;
2. have direct access to many air operators on short notice and bases already set up in the regions or countries where the need exists for humanitarian air transportation from which they can operate;
3. meeting a very high standard in terms of aviation safety and quality enabling the services to be provided in challenging humanitarian flight contexts. As a minimum, the action will have to include a safety and

quality management system in line with the relevant requirements set out by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in relation to this type of air transportation.

Humanitarian air transportation may be provided either by means of a service contract (see Section 3.1. above) or through a humanitarian aid action performed by one of the entities covered by a framework agreement with the Commission. Any potential award of humanitarian funding to support such humanitarian aid actions will take account of any possible services contract(s) on the provision of humanitarian air transport services so as to ensure consistent and coherent delivery of humanitarian assistance-related services and sound financial management.

Description

To continue developing and implementing the European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC), with the purpose of filling operational gaps in the humanitarian response to natural hazards and human-induced disasters. The EHRC helps to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance where the humanitarian community struggles to provide support. It will also help cover the immediate needs of the affected population. The EHRC consists of three pillars:

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

The EHRC as a whole will be implemented through various arrangements. DG ECHO may carry out some actions directly, while implementing organisations may indirectly manage others.

Implementation

Indirect management.

4.4. Disaster preparedness

Implementing entities

Entities which were subject to a successful *ex ante* assessment in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a financial framework partnership agreement concluded for humanitarian aid (International Committee of the Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) or signatories of the financial and administrative framework agreement concluded between the Commission and United Nations entities.

Organisations of the United Nations and Red Cross families as well as Member States' specialised agencies may have specific expertise, unique capacities, privileges and access, notably related to their mandate, for effectively delivering humanitarian aid. The use of entities under indirect management may therefore be necessary for implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid operations addressing the full spectrum of humanitarian needs.

The entities to be entrusted with implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid actions will be selected based on the merits of the proposals for humanitarian aid actions submitted to the Commission in response to any

invitation to submit proposals emanating from DG ECHO (including when the said invitation takes the form of Humanitarian Implementation Plans).

Description

To support strategies and complement existing strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for, mitigate and respond adequately to disasters by enhancing their capacities to anticipate, cope and respond, thereby increasing early response and resilience to shocks and reducing vulnerability.

Local communities are particularly vulnerable to disasters, shocks and stresses. These cause significant losses both in social and economic terms as people's lives are not only at risk, but they often lose their livelihood and land and might even be displaced. When the countries concerned have insufficient capacities to cope with the impact of disasters on the population, aggravated even further by climate change, international support is needed to help them be better prepared. Disaster preparedness actions aim at reducing the impact of disasters and crises on populations, allowing early warning, anticipatory and early action to better assist those affected.

Implementation

Indirect management.

4.5. Enhanced Response Capacity

Implementing entities

Entities which were subject to a successful *ex ante* assessment in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a financial framework partnership agreement concluded for humanitarian aid (International Committee of the Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) or signatories of the financial and administrative framework agreement concluded between the Commission and United Nations entities.

Organisations of the United Nations and Red Cross families as well as Member States' specialised agencies may have specific expertise, singular capacities, privileges and access, notably related to their mandate, for effectively delivering of humanitarian aid. The use of such entities under indirect management is therefore necessary for implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid operations addressing the full spectrum of humanitarian needs, which cannot all be addressed solely through direct management with NGOs (and procurement). Similarly, Member States' and international financial institutions may have a specific expertise of direct relevance in the context of projects supporting or otherwise involving innovative humanitarian financing.

The entities to be entrusted with implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid actions will be selected based on the merits of the proposals for humanitarian aid actions submitted to the Commission in response to any invitation to submit proposals emanating from DG ECHO (including when the said invitation takes the form of Humanitarian Implementation Plans).

Description

To support the development of innovative approaches, policies, methodologies and tools, as well as capacity building in coordination and preparedness to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian aid delivery. With global humanitarian needs continuing to increase, the capacity of humanitarian actors to respond has been stretched to the limit. In line with the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid that ‘(...) *supporting the development of the collective global capacity to respond to humanitarian crises is one of the fundamental tenants of our [EU] approach*’, the Commission is committed to making humanitarian aid more coherent, of better quality and more effective. This action will thus support activities contributing to increase humanitarian capacity to deliver efficient and effective aid to people in need, increase their preparedness for disasters, and enhance existing policy frameworks.

Implementation

Indirect management.

4.6. Humanitarian logistics policy: supporting the paradigm shift

Implementing entities

Entities which were subject to a successful *ex ante* assessment in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a financial framework partnership agreement concluded for humanitarian aid (International Committee of the Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) or signatories of the financial and administrative framework agreement concluded between the Commission and United Nations entities.

Organisations of the United Nations and Red Cross families as well as Member States’ specialised agencies may have specific expertise, singular capacities, privileges and access, notably related to their mandate, for effectively delivering of humanitarian aid. The use of such entities under indirect management is therefore necessary for implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid operations addressing the full spectrum of humanitarian needs, which cannot all be addressed solely through direct management with ngos (and procurement).

The entities to be entrusted with implementing Union-funded humanitarian aid actions will be selected based on the merits of the proposals for humanitarian aid actions submitted to the Commission in response to any invitation to submit proposals emanating from DG ECHO (including when the said invitation takes the form of Humanitarian Implementation Plans).

Description

In 2022 DG ECHO launched its Humanitarian Logistics Policy, which recognises that logistics is cross-sectoral and that 60-80% of humanitarian funding is used for the supply chain and highlights that there are significant opportunities for efficiency and effectiveness gains; however these opportunities require a more strategic, programmatic and innovative approach to humanitarian logistics.

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

Implementation

Indirect management.

5. OTHER ACTIONS OR EXPENDITURE

5.1. Emergency response support - provision of services by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

Amount

EUR 100 000

Description

To provide epidemiological expertise to DG ECHO (including on the spot) in support of emergency response-related activities in the event of epidemic outbreaks (Ebola virus disease, COVID-19 crisis and equivalent diseases).

The ECDC will provide services to DG ECHO based on one or several service-level agreements.

6. IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES WITH RESPECT TO EU RESTRICTIVE MEASURES

The Commission ensures that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with European Union restrictive measures³. The Commission must always seek solutions that do not breach European Union restrictive measures. Accordingly, the Commission is required to channel humanitarian aid via actions and persons that are not restricted under the European Union restrictive measures.

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

Therefore, where no other options are available, the provision of assistance that qualifies as to persons in need should not be prevented by European Union restrictive measures.

³ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the Sanctions Map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website, it is the OJ version that prevails.

Appendix 1
Allocations by actions in Euro

	14 03 01 Humanitarian Aid
To provide humanitarian aid to vulnerable people affected by natural disasters, human-induced crises or exceptional situations or circumstances comparable to natural or human-induced disasters, which have entailed or are likely to continue entailing major loss of life, physical and psychological or social suffering or material damage.	EUR 1 831 034 630
To provide a first initial response to cover the immediate needs of the most vulnerable in advance of a predictable emergency or disaster. In the days after a large scale emergency or sudden onset of a humanitarian crisis to provide humanitarian assistance for response and disaster preparedness to cover the immediate needs of the most vulnerable populations affected by disasters where a small-scale response is sufficient, and to populations affected by epidemic outbreaks.	EUR 107 500 000
To increase awareness and understanding of, and support to, humanitarian issues and the EU as the global leader in humanitarian aid, especially in Europe and in third countries where the Union is funding major humanitarian operations through public awareness actions and information campaigns.	EUR 2 000 000
To continue developing and implementing the European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC), with the purpose of filling operational gaps in the humanitarian response to natural hazards and human-induced disasters. The EHRC helps to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance where the humanitarian community struggles to provide support. It will also help cover the immediate needs of the affected population.	EUR 32 000 000
Support to innovative approaches and initiatives to increase use of collaborative solutions such as common services, shared services and joint procurement. Support can be provided on a local, national, regional, or global level, and range from supporting operations directly, to digital platforms, to organisational or shared tools and structural support, or research.	EUR 7 000 000
Increasing the coherence, quality and effectiveness of humanitarian aid through e.g. the development of innovative approaches, methodologies and tools, and the support to capacity building, coordination and preparedness.	EUR 2 225 000
	14 03 02 Disaster Preparedness
To support strategies and complement existing strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for, mitigate and respond adequately to disasters by enhancing their capacities to anticipate, cope and respond, thereby increasing early response, resilience to shocks and reducing vulnerability.	EUR 72 530 000
Enhancing policy frameworks and partnerships in the field of Disaster Preparedness and Early Action, through the implementation of new and innovative approaches in regions/countries.	EUR 5 500 000

Appendix 2
Indicative allocations by regions/countries 2023 (in euros)

Budget overview:

Humanitarian aid budget allocated to actions -140301	EUR 1 883 759 630
Disaster preparedness budget - 140302	EUR 78 030 000
Operational Reserve	EUR 98 000 000
Total Budget	EUR 2 059 789 630

REGIONS/COUNTRIES	140301 Humanitarian aid	Countries with proposed humanitarian aid interventions at the outset	Countries without initial allocation	140302 Disaster prevention, disaster risk reduction and preparedness	Countries with proposed allocation for Disaster prevention, disaster risk reduction and preparedness	TOTAL
WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA						
West and Central Africa	EUR 206 000 000	Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger	Benin, Cabo Verde, Ivory Coast, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tomé and Príncipe	EUR 12 500 000	Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic and Nigeria	EUR 218 500 000
TOTAL WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA	EUR 206 000 000			EUR 12 500 000		EUR 218 500 000
NORTH AFRICA						
North Africa	EUR 16 000 000	Algeria, Libya and Egypt	Morocco, Tunisia			EUR 16 000 000
TOTAL NORTH AFRICA	EUR 16 000 000			EUR 0		EUR 16 000 000
UPPER NILE BASIN, HORN of AFRICA, GREAT LAKES, SOUTHERN AFRICA, INDIAN OCEAN						
Greater Horn of Africa	EUR 347 500 000	Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia		EUR 8 000 000	South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya and Somalia	EUR 355 500 000
Democratic Republic of Congo and Great Lakes region	EUR 86 013 430	Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania	Republic of Congo	EUR 3 000 000	Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania	EUR 89 013 430
Southern Africa and Indian Ocean	EUR 40 000 000	Madagascar and Mozambique	Angola, Botswana, Comoros Islands, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe	EUR 10 000 000	Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean regional allocation	EUR 50 000 000
TOTAL UPPER NILE BASIN, HORN of AFRICA, GREAT LAKES, SOUTHERN AFRICA, INDIAN OCEAN	EUR 473 513 430			EUR 21 000 000		EUR 494 513 430
MIDDLE EAST						
Palestine*	EUR 23 000 000	Palestine		EUR 1 200 000	Palestine	EUR 24 200 000
Iraq crisis	EUR 17 000 000	Iraq				EUR 17 000 000
Syria regional and Lebanon crises	EUR 240 000 000	Syria, Lebanon and Jordan				EUR 240 000 000
Yemen	EUR 133 370 000	Yemen		EUR 2 630 000	Yemen	EUR 136 000 000
TOTAL MIDDLE EAST	EUR 413 370 000			EUR 3 830 000		EUR 417 200 000
TÜRKİYE						
Türkiye	EUR 65 000 000	Turkey				EUR 65 000 000
TOTAL TÜRKİYE	EUR 65 000 000			EUR 0		EUR 65 000 000

REGIONS/COUNTRIES	140301 Humanitarian aid	Countries with proposed humanitarian aid interventions at the outset	Countries without initial allocation	140302 Disaster prevention, disaster risk reduction and preparedness	Countries with proposed allocation for Disaster prevention, disaster risk reduction and preparedness	TOTAL
UKRAINE, WESTERN BALKANS AND CAUCASUS						
Ukraine & Eastern Neighbourhood	EUR 212 996 800	Ukraine**, Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Eastern Neighbourhood	Caucasus, Balkans			EUR 212 996 800
TOTAL UKRAINE, WESTERN BALKANS AND CAUCASUS	EUR 212 996 800			EUR 0		EUR 212 996 800
SOUTH ASIA & PACIFIC						
South-West and Central Asia	EUR 112 538 400	Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan	Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan	EUR 3 200 000	Iran, Pakistan	EUR 115 738 400
South, East, South-East Asia and the Pacific	EUR 37 616 000	Bangladesh, Myanmar, Philippines and regional Rohingya Crisis	South Asia (India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives), East and South- East Asia (ASEAN Member States, Timor Leste, China, Mongolia and DPRK), Pacific region including OCT.	EUR 13 500 000	Bangladesh, Philippines, Nepal, Myanmar, Regional South-East Asia	EUR 51 116 000
TOTAL SOUTH ASIA & PACIFIC	EUR 150 154 400			EUR 16 700 000		EUR 166 854 400
CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA, CARIBBEAN						
Central & South America, Caribbean	EUR 97 500 000	Colombia, Venezuela, Haiti regional Central America, South America and Caribbean	Caribbean countries including OCT; Other Central American countries (Panama Costa Rica, Belize), Mexico; South American countries, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua	EUR 18 500 000	Haiti, Regional Caribbean including OCT, Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua) including Regional Central America; South America (including among others - Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru) as well as Regional South America, Colombia and Venezuela	EUR 116 000 000
TOTAL CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA, CARIBBEAN	EUR 97 500 000			EUR 18 500 000		EUR 116 000 000
WORLDWIDE						
Response to sudden onset emergencies	EUR 107 500 000	ALERT, Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and Forecast-based Action (FbA), Epidemics and Small Scale Response, Emergency Response, EHRC and Transport and logistics				EUR 107 500 000
European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC)	EUR 32 000 000					EUR 32 000 000
Humanitarian Logistics Policy Implementation	EUR 7 000 000					EUR 7 000 000
TOTAL WORLDWIDE ACTIONS	EUR 146 500 000			EUR 0		EUR 146 500 000
COMPLEMENTARY OPERATIONS						
Policy Support toolbox	EUR 2 225 000					EUR 2 225 000
Enhanced response capacity	EUR 33 000 000			EUR 5 500 000		EUR 38 500 000
Public awareness, Information and Communication	EUR 2 000 000					EUR 2 000 000
Programmatic Partnerships	EUR 65 500 000			EUR 0		EUR 65 500 000
TOTAL COMPLEMENTARY OPERATIONS	EUR 102 725 000			EUR 5 500 000		EUR 108 225 000
OPERATIONAL RESERVE (OR)						
OPERATIONAL RESERVE (OR)	EUR 98 000 000					EUR 98 000 000
TOTAL	EUR 1 981 759 630			EUR 78 030 000		EUR 2 059 789 630

* This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

** Including assistance to people displaced from Ukraine to neighbouring countries