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**COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT**

**General Guidelines on Operational Priorities for Humanitarian Aid in 2020**

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The Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) of the European Commission manages humanitarian aid to the victims of conflicts or disasters, both natural and man-made, in third countries. The mandate of DG ECHO in this area is to save and preserve life, to reduce or prevent suffering to safeguard the integrity and dignity of people affected by humanitarian crises by providing relief and protection. Through early action and a focus on preparedness, DG ECHO seeks to preserve livelihoods and build resilience of affected populations. DG ECHO also helps to facilitate coordination on humanitarian assistance with, and among, EU Member States humanitarian departments and agencies. The overall priority is to ensure that the aid is managed in the most effective and efficient way possible so that the help the EU delivers to people in need has the maximum effect, whilst respecting the principles of international law and the principles of impartiality, neutrality, humanity, non-discrimination and independence.

DG ECHO is also responsible for the management of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism which covers interventions in Member States, as well as in third countries<sup>1</sup> and the implementation of Council Regulation (EU) 2016/369 of 15 March 2016 on the provision of emergency support within the European Union<sup>2</sup>. This Regulation lays down the framework within which Union emergency support may be awarded through specific measures appropriate to the economic situation in the event of an ongoing or potential natural or man-made disaster. This kind of emergency support can only be provided where the exceptional scale and impact of the disaster is such that it gives rise to severe wide-ranging humanitarian consequences in one or more Member States and only in exceptional circumstances where no other instrument available to Member States and to the Union is sufficient. The three instruments, humanitarian aid, civil protection and emergency support, are linked and under the responsibility of the same Commissioner.

The present document is drawn up under Article 16(1) of Council Regulation No 1257/96<sup>3</sup> and therefore covers humanitarian aid operations for the year ahead. The document does not cover DG ECHO's activities in the field of civil protection, which are instead described in the annual work programme for civil protection actions to be adopted on the basis of the civil protection legislation adopted on 17 December 2013. Equally, the EU Aid Volunteers initiative (EUAV) activities for 2020 will be detailed, as in the past, in the specific EU Aid Volunteers annual work programme as laid down in Article 21(3) of Regulation 375/2014<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism, as amended by Decision (EU) 2019/420 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 March 2019 - OJ L 77 I, 20.03.2019, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 70, 16.3.2016, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid (OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1).

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps (OJ L 122, 24.4.2014, p. 1).

## 1. GENERAL CONTEXT AND OUTLOOK FOR 2020

Humanitarian crises have steadily increased in complexity and severity over the last decades, and in 2020, this trend is set to continue. Conflict remains the main driver of humanitarian needs, while natural disasters are increasing in intensity and scope due to climate change, also causing significant needs.

Overall, more than 141 million people across the world need humanitarian assistance<sup>5</sup> and protection – and more funding than ever before is required to help them. Two L3<sup>6</sup> emergencies, i.e. Syria and Yemen, remain the world's most severe, large-scale humanitarian crises, with significant implications for neighbouring countries.

The United Nations' (UN) humanitarian appeal for 2019, currently amounting to USD 26.4 billion, was only 23.2% funded as of mid-year. The most underfunded emergencies to date (less than 20 % of required funding) are Cameroon, Ethiopia, Haiti, Libya, Niger, Syria Regional Response, and Ukraine. Protracted crises have become a norm and today represent 80% of all humanitarian funding requirements<sup>7</sup>.

In today's protracted conflicts, insecurity often prevents the delivery of aid where help is most needed. Access to, and the protection of the most vulnerable, continue to be challenged due to wide-spread and growing lack of compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the humanitarian principles. The percentage of civilian victims in conflicts has dramatically increased, and the security of humanitarian personnel has remained a critical challenge.

Protracted violence continues to force people to flee from their homes. At the end of 2018, 70.8 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide, according to UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. The global number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has reached again an all-time high with more than 41 million people living in conflict- and violence-related displacement<sup>8</sup>. In 2018, over two thirds of the world's refugees came from just six countries: Syria, Palestine, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar and Somalia. Colombia, Syria and DRC continue to be the most affected by conflict related internal displacement.

Humanitarian crises tend to affect those most vulnerable the hardest, including persons with disabilities, the elderly, women and children. Children can be particularly vulnerable especially when their education is disrupted. Half of the world's out-of-school children live in contexts affected by crisis and conflict, and almost half of refugees of school age are out of school<sup>9</sup>.

Girls living in conflict-affected countries are more likely to be out of school. They also face a much greater risk of gender-based violence, including early marriage and pregnancy. Prevention of and response to sexual- and gender-based violence, which affects, women, girls, men and boys, are still not treated as a priority from the earliest stages of emergencies. Humanitarian response often lacks sufficient mechanisms and funding to ensure that the issue is addressed comprehensively.

According to the 2019 Global Report on Food Crises<sup>10</sup>, in 2018 more than 113 million people across 53 countries experienced acute hunger requiring urgent food, nutrition and livelihood

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<sup>5</sup> Global Humanitarian Overview, June 2019 Status Report, UNOCHA

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.unocha.org/where-we-work/current-emergencies>

<sup>7</sup> Global Humanitarian Overview, June 2019 Status Report, UNOCHA

<sup>8</sup> UNHCR Global Trends Report 2018

<sup>9</sup> Commission Communication on Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises, COM(2018) 304 final, 18.05.2018

<sup>10</sup> The 2019 Global Report on Food Crises can be retrieved [here](#).

assistance. The worst food crises in 2018 were, in order of severity, Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Syria, the Sudan, South Sudan and northern Nigeria. These eight countries accounted for two thirds of the total number of people facing acute food insecurity – amounting to nearly 72 million people. Also high levels of acute and chronic malnutrition in children living in emergency conditions remained of concern.

While global humanitarian needs are dramatically increasing, funding is not. It is therefore essential to identify and focus on main priorities and respect the guiding principles, on which the EU's humanitarian budgetary allocations are determined. In 2020, EU humanitarian aid will continue to focus on supporting those most in need following sudden-onset, protracted and forgotten crises<sup>11</sup>.

## **2. PRIORITIES**

### **2.1. Horizontal thematic priorities: improving aid effectiveness, efficiency and quality of operations**

Aid effectiveness and result-oriented actions remain priority issues in 2020. With renewed impetus for the Grand Bargain and the intention to achieve significant progress to showcase at a five years event in 2021, building on preparatory steps, pilot projects and technical progress achieved in the past years, 2020 should deliver on a variety of commitments, such as potential simplification of reporting. Achieving progress on the donor side, with a leading role for DG ECHO, will allow for better “negotiations” with implementing partners to obtain necessary reforms, in particular related to coordinated needs assessment. The introduction of an enhanced Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC 2020), which among others, reinforces the linkages between humanitarian needs overview (HNO) and humanitarian response plans (HRP) and increase the focus on the inter-sectoral nature of needs, will require particular attention, in terms of reviewing the lessons learnt and supporting the process, ensuring that positive elements are encouraged while addressing potential weaknesses.

DG ECHO is committed to develop strategic partnerships which represents an important stepping-stone towards relevant Grand Bargain commitments. The first contributions to Country Based Pooled Funds (CBPF) will also mark an important evolution in the delivery mode of DG ECHO, adding new tools for potential use in the available “toolbox”.

Aid effectiveness and efficiency will also be pursued through the dissemination, implementation and updating, where necessary, of existing policies. In 2020, it is foreseen that DG ECHO's approach to humanitarian transport and logistics will continue to be examined following the recent *Evaluation of Humanitarian Logistics within EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Action 2013-2017*<sup>12</sup>. At the same time, systematic monitoring and reviews by the Commission's humanitarian experts as well as the use of key results indicators will ensure that EU-funded operations are implemented in line with agreed guidance and present a more comprehensive picture of DG ECHO's results, performance and resources.

In parallel the reflection on appropriate methodologies for the allocation of the funds available between the rising numbers of complex crises will continue.

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<sup>11</sup> The methodology used to that end is supported by the DG ECHO Integrated Analysis Framework (IAF) and the Index for Risk Management – INFORM.

<sup>12</sup> <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/2c0ab9b4-358a-11e9-8d04-01aa75ed71a1>

DG ECHO will also continue to support the development of innovative solutions and approaches, in cooperation with a wide range of actors, including the private sector and the scientific community as part of its aid effectiveness and efficiency agenda. In this regard, making use of digital technology to be more cost-effective and sharing of all relevant data to facilitate coordinated assessments, response analysis and delivery of assistance, will be of particular importance. EU's research and innovation programmes<sup>13</sup> offer opportunities to harness these stakeholders' technological innovation, technical skills and expertise, and foster their active involvement in humanitarian contexts. DG ECHO will further explore these programmes as catalysts for cross-sectoral partnerships.

### **Thematic policies**

Over the years, the Commission has developed a number of policies/guidance documents in areas such as protection, gender, health, food, shelter, disability, etc. These documents outline the Commission position on key international frameworks and standards and provide concrete recommendations to its implementing partners on programming. The overall objective is to ensure quality, coherence and accountability of EU funded humanitarian operations.

In line with previous years, the overarching priority of EU humanitarian aid operations will be to provide for protection and to meet the live-saving needs of affected populations, with a focus on the most vulnerable.

#### ***Protection and focus on the most vulnerable***

Systematic violations of the **International Humanitarian Law** (IHL) have been consistently on the rise: direct attacks on civilian population, on civilian facilities such as schools and hospitals, denial of access to humanitarian aid and attacks on humanitarian workers. In some armed conflicts, violations of IHL are widely reported as strategic methods of warfare. Such methods have long-term humanitarian consequences. The continued prevalence of breaches of IHL and of the humanitarian principles has made protection a prime challenge in today's humanitarian contexts in particular in armed conflicts involving non-State actors.

In 2020, DG ECHO will continue to make protection a priority in its humanitarian assistance, in line with the provisions of the Staff Working Document 'Humanitarian Protection: Improving protection outcomes to reduce risks for people in humanitarian crises'<sup>14</sup>. The Commission will also support existing good practices and engage in advocacy for compliance with IHL.

Humanitarian crises have a different impact on women, girls, boys and men. Their differentiated needs and specific vulnerabilities during and in the aftermath of crises need to be addressed accordingly. A response that does not integrate gender and age considerations risks not reaching those most in need, or even inadvertently doing harm. In 2020, DG ECHO will continue to mainstream gender and age across all sectors.

DG ECHO will continue to advance the implementation of the approach to **gender and gender-based violence** in humanitarian crises outlined in the Staff Working Document 'Gender: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance'<sup>15</sup> and in line with the EU's comprehensive

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<sup>13</sup> See European Innovation Council (EIC) Horizon 2020 Prizes on [Affordable High-Tech for Humanitarian Aid](#), [Early Warning for Epidemics](#) and [Blockchains for Social Good](#).

<sup>14</sup> SWD(2016)183, 23.05.2016. [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echosite/files/staff\\_working\\_document\\_humanitarian\\_protection\\_052016.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echosite/files/staff_working_document_humanitarian_protection_052016.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> SWD(2013)290, 22.7.2013. [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/Gender\\_SWD\\_2013.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/Gender_SWD_2013.pdf)



policy on Women, Peace and Security<sup>16</sup> and the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020. In 2020, the EU will also remain an active member of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender Based Violence in Emergencies initiative<sup>17</sup>. In operational terms, DG ECHO will continue supporting prevention and response to sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV) through targeted actions.

**Persons with disabilities** are disproportionately affected by natural and man-made disasters. They also face multiple barriers in accessing humanitarian services, such as water, shelter or food and may have specific protection needs. In 2019, DG ECHO finalised Operational Guidance on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in EU-funded Humanitarian Aid Operations<sup>18</sup>. In 2020, DG ECHO will work to ensure the implementation of the Operational Guidance.

**Children** make up more than half of all people affected by humanitarian crises and many of them miss out on **education**: half of the world's out-of-school children live in crisis-affected contexts. Yet, education is crucial for both the protection and healthy development of all girls and boys. It can rebuild their lives, restore their sense of normality and safety, and provide them with important life skills. Therefore, DG ECHO will continue its Education in Emergencies (EiE) assistance across the world and at a similar indicative target rate of 10% of the humanitarian budget as in 2019. The overall aim of this assistance is to restore and maintain access to safe, quality and inclusive education during humanitarian crises, and to support out-of-school children to quickly enter or return to quality learning opportunities.

DG ECHO will provide EiE funding in the framework of the Commission Staff Working Document on Education in Emergencies in EU-funded Humanitarian Aid Operations<sup>19</sup>, working towards four EiE objectives focussed on access, quality, protection and capacity development. In line with the funding commitment put forward in the Communication, DG ECHO will aim to dedicate 10% of EU humanitarian aid to EiE, supporting formal and non-formal education at the primary and secondary levels of education.

### *Sectoral policies*

DG ECHO will continue to prioritise a **basic needs approach**; an integrated multi-sectoral or cross-sectoral approach to programming that aims to meet/contribute to the basic needs of affected populations. Addressing people's needs in a coordinated and demand-driven way puts people back at the centre of interventions, especially where beneficiaries are empowered to make choices and tailor the assistance to meet their individual needs.

In this regard and in line with the Grand Bargain commitments, DG ECHO will continue to encourage the use of **cash transfers**. Cash transfers provide affected populations with the dignity of choice, flexibility and more control over their own lives. In particular, DG ECHO will continue to encourage the use of **multipurpose cash transfers**, i.e. cash transfers used by beneficiaries to meet their basic needs.

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<sup>16</sup> EU Comprehensive Approach on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 (<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/12/10/women-peace-and-security-council-adopts-conclusions/>)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.calltoactiongbv.com/>

<sup>18</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/2019-01\\_disability\\_inclusion\\_guidance\\_note.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/2019-01_disability_inclusion_guidance_note.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> Commission Staff Working Document on Education in Emergencies in EU-funded Humanitarian Aid Operations, SWD(2019) 150 final/2, 19.7.2019.

In order strengthen transparency and accountability towards beneficiaries and taxpayers, DG ECHO will continue to seek to apply, wherever the context allows, the Guidance Note on the Delivery of Large-Scale Cash Transfers<sup>20</sup>. DG ECHO will continue to actively contribute to the Donor Cash Forum created in the first half of 2019 with like-minded donors.

DG ECHO's humanitarian **food assistance and nutrition** continue to represent about one third of the EU's annual humanitarian aid budget, making the EU one of the world's major donors in this sector. In the area of **food assistance**, DG ECHO will continue to provide assistance adapted to the needs of different groups and each specific crisis situation, including the choice of the most appropriate interventions and delivery modality, be it cash, voucher or essential food items during critical times, or livelihoods protection activities, in full respect of the “do no harm” principle.

DG ECHO will continue to support funding for and coordination of **nutrition** in emergencies as well as the development and the wide use of tools and innovative approaches in programming. The multi-sectoral approach to address Severe and Moderate Acute malnutrition as well as stronger coordination between humanitarian and development approaches will continue to be promoted.

DG ECHO's **health assistance** will remain a core sector of humanitarian aid interventions. The overriding objective of DG ECHO's health assistance is to limit excess preventable mortality, permanent disability, and disease associated with humanitarian crises. DG ECHO will continue to fund needs-based, high-quality and context-specific health services to people affected by crises, in accordance with General Health Guidelines and the technical annexes.<sup>21</sup>

DG ECHO's approach to **shelter and settlement** (S&S) acknowledges the increased needs for humanitarian shelter and settlement interventions and their importance for efficient and effective post-disaster responses and anticipatory actions. Shelter is of central importance to providing protection, strengthening health and re-establishing livelihoods. Promoting locally appropriate shelter solutions as well as delivering S&S services in urban contexts, reinforcing local capacity and ownership and recognising the environmental element of any S&S humanitarian action will continue to be the most important elements of DG ECHO interventions in this area, in accordance with the Shelter and Settlements guidelines<sup>22</sup>.

As one of the largest donors in humanitarian **Water and Sanitation, Hygiene** (WASH), DG ECHO has contributed significantly to improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene services for people affected by humanitarian crises. Systematic quality control and respect of the international quality standards as well as systematic performance monitoring are core aspects of DG ECHO's WASH policy<sup>23</sup>. Given the technical aspects of WASH assistance, technical support and expertise will remain vital components of DG ECHO's assistance. In 2020 DG ECHO will continue to encourage all humanitarian WASH actions funded to be risk-informed and will require from its partners that all the WASH interventions incorporate the environmental concerns aiming at reducing the environmental footprint of their actions.

### ***Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus and cross-cutting issues***

Given the protracted nature of the majority of humanitarian crises, there is a strong consensus among the international actors to improve and strengthen the link between humanitarian and

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<sup>20</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/guidance\\_note\\_cash\\_23\\_11\\_2017.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/guidance_note_cash_23_11_2017.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/health2014\\_general\\_health\\_guidelines\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/health2014_general_health_guidelines_en.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/shelter\\_and\\_settlement\\_guidelines.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/shelter_and_settlement_guidelines.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/WASH\\_policy\\_doc\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/WASH_policy_doc_en.pdf)

development aid, and where relevant, peace actions. Without compromising the humanitarian principles, DG ECHO's support will therefore aim at contributing to longer-term strategies to build the capacities and resilience of the most vulnerable and address underlying reasons for their vulnerability– to all shocks and stresses. DG ECHO will continue to coordinate with relevant development and peace actors, to shift the work culture towards more systematic and up-front coordination between humanitarian, development and peace actors in headquarters and on the ground, among EU institutions, EU Members States and other relevant actors, to find opportunities of complementarities and jointly contribute to strengthening resilience and building sustainable peace. This work will continue to be based on the specific conditions in each context and in line with a principled humanitarian response.

Ensuring a thorough understanding of the implications of humanitarian actions on conflict dynamics will be part of EU's principled and pragmatic Integrated Approach, in all relevant contexts. In this regard, DG ECHO will continue to strengthen its internal expertise on conflict sensitivity through dedicated trainings.

Following the Commission and High Representative and Vice President (HRVP) Joint Communication<sup>24</sup> on a Strategic approach to Resilience in External Action, a pilot process was launched in six countries (Chad, Iraq, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sudan and Uganda). The objective of this process was to test a more joined-up approaches between external instruments, EU institutions and Member States aimed at increasing the impact of EU's external action and at sustaining progress towards EU development, humanitarian, foreign and security policy objectives. Also in 2020, DG ECHO will support progress towards such approaches, including in countries beyond the original six pilots. In addition, DG ECHO will support the development of the EU's new way of working as a process to shift the work culture towards more systematic and up-front coordination between the humanitarian, development and peace actors in headquarters and on the ground, in full compliance with their respective mandates and roles.

Over 70.8 million people are **forcibly displaced** worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, generalised violence, or human rights violations. More than 80 % of displacement crises last for more than 10 years.<sup>25</sup> The Commission Communication 'Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance'<sup>26</sup>, outlines a development-led approach to forced displacement. Its main objective is to strengthen the resilience and self-reliance of both the displaced and their host communities through a multi-actor approach from the outset of displacement crises. Both development and humanitarian actors will continue the implementation of the approach in an ever increasing number of countries. Also in 2020, DG ECHO will continue and strengthen its efforts to raise the awareness of the situation of vulnerable IDPs.

The **Global Compact on Refugees** is a multilateral framework aiming at modernising responses to the needs of refugees and focusing on development, in line with the EU approach to forced displacement and development. In 2020, efforts will be underway to support this global framework and all relevant stakeholders, including as a follow up of the Global Refugee Forum scheduled to take place in December 2019.

Scaling up **social protection systems** has been identified as one of the core avenues to enhance the resilience of vulnerable populations, provide more durable solutions and enable quick and efficient humanitarian assistance in response to sudden-onset disasters. While

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<sup>24</sup> Join (2017) 21 final

<sup>25</sup> 2017 Global Trends Report, UNHCR.

<sup>26</sup> COM(2016) 234 final: "Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance Forced Displacement and Development".

building national social protection systems has traditionally fallen under the remit of development, the humanitarian community can play an important role in aligning with and complementing these efforts in supporting the creation of shock-responsive social protection systems and safety nets for the most vulnerable. Social protection is furthermore increasingly considered as an entry and exit point for cash transfers, laying the basis for more durable solutions.

In 2018-19, Commission services (DGs ECHO, DEVCO and NEAR), developed a Guidance Package on Social Protection across the Humanitarian-Development Nexus (SPaN).<sup>27</sup> In line with the Guidance, DG ECHO will continue to engage with development actors to support the development of the shock responsive social protection systems whenever feasible.

An increasing number of people in need of humanitarian assistance are seeking refuge in cities. Given the high population density, the crises affecting **urban** centres tend to have a much severe impact. A reinforced dialogue with new actors central to urban settings traditionally out of the humanitarian response system is required to ensure an efficient and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance.

In this context, in 2020, DG ECHO will continue to promote a multi-sectoral approach to assessments and programming in urban settings, and advocate for greater attention to humanitarian needs and preparedness in urban environments. Area-based approaches and other analysis tools will be further explored to better assess and respond to urban crises. DG ECHO will also continue to promote urban resilience in line with the 'Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2015-2030'.

Lastly, DG ECHO recognises the importance of minimising the **environmental footprint** of humanitarian action and the need to build capacity on environmental mainstreaming into humanitarian response, along the "do no harm" principle.

### ***Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Preparedness (DP)***

The EU Action Plan on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2015-2030, adopted on 17 June 2016, aims at further promoting disaster risk management and its integration into relevant EU policies.

The focus of DG ECHO's approach to DRR is on where its humanitarian mandate and expertise provides maximum added value and effect: preparedness for response and early action. DG ECHO is closely aligned to Sendai Framework Priority 4 – to enhance disaster preparedness. This approach is equally reflected in Grand Bargain commitments for early action, to strengthen national and local responsibilities for preparedness, to respond earlier and better to make humanitarian assistance "as local as possible, as international as necessary."

DG ECHO integrates risk informed programming into all humanitarian responses, protecting operations and beneficiaries from hazard and threats, ensuring that contingency arrangements are in place for additional or expanded activities that might be required and that anticipatory funding is available.

The Disaster Preparedness (DP) budget line is applied strategically, enhancing preparedness as part of recovery and reconstruction strategies that are supported by DG DEVCO/NEAR. DG ECHO aims to strengthen National DP systems, and in particular, the preparedness and

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<sup>27</sup> <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/sp-nexus>

contingency plans of key national services – health (incl. epidemics), food security and nutrition, shock responsive safety nets. More emphasis is put on forecast-based or risk financing models as well. In addition, there are real opportunities for the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), including the Civil Protection Prevention and Preparedness Advisory Missions, to engage with, and support, local and national government structures and response systems.

DG ECHO's humanitarian assistance is needs-driven and should be risks-driven as well. DG ECHO similarly adopts a people focused approach to DP, prioritising assistance according to risk and vulnerabilities. DG ECHO disaster preparedness is therefore multi-hazard by definition.

In 2020 further efforts will be made to promote and advance DP in Fragile and Conflict Affected States – where most disaster deaths and losses occur. DP is an area of expertise where DG ECHO can make a significant contribution to Humanitarian Development Nexus objectives.

## 2.2. Operational priorities reflected in the budget allocation

### 2.2.1. General methodology

In line with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union<sup>28</sup>, the Humanitarian Aid Regulation<sup>29</sup> and the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid<sup>30</sup>, and acting on the basis of the relevant financing decision (Commission Implementing Decision financing humanitarian aid operational priorities from the general budget of the European Union) adopted by the Commission, DG ECHO is committed to providing relief and protection to populations affected by natural or man-made disasters. The methodology used for the allocation of funding is supported by the **Index for Risk Management (INFORM)**, the **Crisis Assessment**, the **Forgotten Crises Assessment (FCA)**, the **Integrated Analysis Framework (IAF)** and the **Fund Allocation Support Tool (FAST)** based on the IAF and INFORM.

2019 saw the completion of the seventh annual **Integrated Analysis Framework (IAF)** exercise, the basis for the funding allocation for the following year; the same analytical preparatory work serves also as the foundation for DG ECHO's Humanitarian Implementation Plans (HIPs). DG ECHO field experts in coordination with the respective operational units conducted **IAF country analyses**. This analysis provides a first-hand account of crisis areas and gives an insight into the nature and the severity of needs.

DG ECHO also carries out at central level a global evaluation, which has the following dimensions: (i) the **INFORM**<sup>31</sup>, which categorises countries on the basis of their risk to humanitarian crisis and disasters, coupled with the **Crisis Assessment**, which in 2019 builds on three INFORM indicators: conflict intensity score, uprooted people and number of people affected by natural disasters, and (ii) the **Forgotten Crises Assessment**, which identifies crises that have been overlooked or neglected by the international humanitarian community and/or the global media and which need special attention.

DG ECHO constantly re-appraises humanitarian crises as they evolve. If the need for humanitarian assistance diminishes, often due to the start of rehabilitation and development activities, DG ECHO winds down its humanitarian work. A high priority is given to linking humanitarian aid and development activities. The exit strategy for all areas of humanitarian interventions is reviewed twice a year; first, when funds are initially allocated, secondly, during a mid-term review. The latter is an opportunity to review priorities for remaining funds in accordance with evolving needs.

### 2.2.2. Index for Risk Management – INFORM and Crisis Assessment

INFORM identifies countries at risk from crises and disasters that could overwhelm national response capacity. It analyses three dimensions of risk at country level: (i) **Hazard & Exposure**, (ii) **Vulnerability**, and (iii) **Lack of Coping capacity**, grouping 191 countries based on a five-level risk assessment approach: very high, high, medium, low and very low risk countries<sup>32</sup>.

Of 53 countries most at risk from humanitarian emergencies (INFORM Very High and High Risk) identified in September 2019, 14 are at very high risk. These countries are **Somalia, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Afghanistan, Yemen, Democratic Republic of**

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<sup>28</sup> Article 214.

<sup>29</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid (OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1).

<sup>30</sup> Joint Statement by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission (OJ C 25, 30.1.2008, p. 1).

<sup>31</sup> More information on INFORM available at <http://www.inform-index.org/> and in INFORM Results 2017 Report

<sup>32</sup> For an in-depth analysis of all 191 countries, please refer to INFORM countries' risk profiles on: <http://www.inform-index.org/>

**Congo, Chad, Iraq, Sudan, Syria, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Niger and Haiti.** Five of these countries were identified with very high risks in all three risk dimensions (hazard & exposure, vulnerability and lack of coping capacity): Somalia, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Afghanistan and Yemen.

The March 2019 **Crisis Assessment** identified 48 countries suffering from a natural disaster and/or a violent conflict and/or that are experiencing a large number of uprooted people – reflected by a crisis index of 3. Specifically, of the 48 countries identified, 25 countries suffered from a violent national or subnational conflict, 22 countries suffered from a natural disaster in 2019, while 20 countries experienced a large number of uprooted people (as compared to their total population), all represented by a crisis assessment indicator of 3.

### *2.2.3. Forgotten Crises Assessment*

The Forgotten Crises Assessment seeks to highlight severe humanitarian crisis situations where affected populations are receiving no or insufficient international assistance due to the lack of humanitarian funding, and which receive little to no international media attention. As an established principle, the EU as a global, principled donor is allocating at least 15% of the initial annual humanitarian budget to forgotten crises. The following crises were identified through the 2019-20 assessment:

#### **Asia<sup>33</sup>:**

- Afghanistan regional crisis (incl. Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan)
- Myanmar: conflict and displacement in Kachin and Northern Shan States
- Pakistan food crisis
- Philippines: armed conflict in Mindanao
- Rohingya regional crisis

#### **Africa:**

- Sahrawi refugees in Algeria
- Burundi regional refugee crisis
- Central African Republic regional crisis (CAR, Cameroon, Chad)
- Conflicts and violence in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger)
- Sudan: food and nutrition crises, internal conflict

#### **Latin America and Caribbean:**

- Colombia: internal armed conflict
- Haiti: food and nutrition crisis
- Central America: Food insecurity and violence (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico)
- Venezuelan and Haitian refugee crisis in the Caribbean

#### **Europe:**

- Conflict in Ukraine

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<sup>33</sup> The food crisis in DPRK has been identified as a forgotten crises. However, the situation is currently not conducive for principled humanitarian operations which is why it has not been included in the list

#### 2.2.4. *Integrated Analysis Framework*

As part of DG ECHO's annual assessment exercise, INFORM and other indexes are accompanied by an **in-depth (sub-)country level assessment through the Integrated Analysis Framework (IAF) process**<sup>34</sup>. These assessments are done at country level or when more appropriate at regional level for countries or regions with potential humanitarian needs.

The IAF exercise draws on DG ECHO's field presence and humanitarian expertise adding qualitative judgements based on individual crises within a country or a region. An assessment of needs per crisis specifically analyses a crisis' overall humanitarian needs, population affected, vulnerability of population affected and foreseen trends.

Specifically, the IAF template includes for a country or region: the INFORM most significant indexes, a context analysis (national and sub-national levels), a field level needs assessment, a response analyses (covering for example information on the presence of other donors, LRRD options, humanitarian coordination or partners' implementation capacity), if relevant a specific food and nutrition analysis, a forgotten crises recommendation where appropriate and a disaster risk reduction (DRR) assessment.

#### 2.2.5. *Other considerations*

DG ECHO aims to ensure availability of funding for as many crisis situations as possible and that there is a swift, efficient, comprehensive response. Whilst funding allocations are based on needs assessment and co-ordination with other donors, certain factors that are outside of DG ECHO's control may reduce the volume of aid that can effectively be delivered to the beneficiaries. Two factors, in particular, should be mentioned. These are: - the extent to which implementing organisations are present and have the capacity to handle needs in a given crisis zone ('absorption capacity'); - and the linked problem of access restrictions caused either by insecurity or administrative impediments.

DG ECHO also aims to ensure that proper needs assessment and monitoring take place and only operates in 'remote management' where absolutely necessary and justified by humanitarian imperatives.

Restrictions faced by partners are most prevalent in areas of conflict, a marked absence in the rule of law or due to political and administrative impediments. They can also be affected by political resistance from governments.

#### 2.2.6. *Operational objectives and budget planning*

The general EU budget earmarked on the budget lines for humanitarian aid/food assistance and disaster preparedness is EUR 896 154 500<sup>35</sup>. This amount is to be used to finance humanitarian aid operations aiming essentially to:

- (a) Providing humanitarian aid to vulnerable people affected by natural disasters, man-made crises or exceptional situations or circumstances comparable to natural or man-made disasters, which have entailed or are likely to continue entailing major loss of life, physical and psychological or social suffering or material damage;

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<sup>34</sup> The IAF exercise in particular responds to the historical and geographical constraints in global data update (data lag or lack), where certain quantitative indicators for some countries, particularly those with a strong recent deterioration due to crisis, e.g. Syria, might not represent the on-the-ground assessment of the current state of vulnerability or coping capacity values.

<sup>35</sup> Draft Budget 2020 proposed by the Commission.



- (b) Providing first initial response to cover the immediate needs of the most vulnerable in the days after a large scale emergency or a sudden onset humanitarian crisis as well as humanitarian assistance for response and disaster preparedness to populations affected by disasters where a small scale response is adequate and to populations affected by epidemic outbreaks;
- (c) Supporting strategies and complementing existing strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for, mitigate and respond adequately to natural disasters by enhancing their capacities to cope and respond, thereby increasing resilience and reducing vulnerability;
- (d) Increasing awareness, understanding of and support for humanitarian issues, especially in Europe and in third countries where the Union is funding major humanitarian operations through public awareness and information campaigns;
- (e) Improving the conditions for delivering humanitarian aid by supporting transport services to ensure that aid is accessible to beneficiaries, including by means of medical evacuation of humanitarian staff where the unavailability of such transport services could adversely affect the timely and effective provision of assistance to beneficiaries;
- (f) Increasing the coherence, quality and effectiveness of humanitarian aid through e.g. the development of innovative approaches, methodologies, tools, the support to capacity building, coordination and preparedness development of innovative approaches, methodologies, tools, the support to coordination and preparedness;
- (g) Contributing to the resilience of populations and communities in need.

DG ECHO will maintain its broadened **regional approach** with regional responses in certain Humanitarian Implementation Plans (HIPs). A regional approach presents the substantial advantage of lending added speed and flexibility to EU humanitarian assistance, as well as simplification/streamlining among HIPs.

The following sections provide details on how DG ECHO will support humanitarian and food assistance to vulnerable people affected by man-made crisis and/or natural disasters, and on Disaster Preparedness operations (DIPECHO).

## 2.3. West and Central Africa

### *Sahel*

Humanitarian needs have been sharply increasing in 2019 due to the combination of multiple shocks, leading to a complex crisis. The third consecutive year of food and nutrition crises has seriously reduced the resilience of the most vulnerable populations, which face the consequences of a “perfect storm”: conflict, insecurity, forced displacement, climate change, epidemics, structural development deficit, lack of national capacities and high demographic growth. Currently some 37 million people are severely or moderately food insecure, with 10 million of them in need of emergency food assistance and 2.8 million children under five require treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition, which is one of the highest numbers in the world in relative terms. Furthermore, the conflicts in Northeast Nigeria/the Lake Chad basin, as well as in Northern/Central Mali and neighbouring countries have forcibly displaced more

than 4.7 million people and severely impacted their livelihoods as well as the livelihoods of local communities.

In 2020, there is no prospect for a significant decrease in the number of acutely undernourished children as the reasons for undernutrition are many-fold. Sustainable prevention interventions are only implemented on a small-scale basis while resilience-building efforts take time to demonstrate a concrete impact and are being jeopardized by the impact of the on-going armed conflicts. Therefore, continued solid humanitarian engagement is required in the Sahel region, which is considered a forgotten crises.

Humanitarian efforts will continue to focus on the following priority areas: multi-sectoral emergency assistance and protection for populations affected by conflict; nutrition support to help reduce excessive morbidity and mortality of children under five in areas where Severe Acute Malnutrition has reached the emergency threshold; adequate food assistance to populations facing severe food insecurity; support to enhancing preparedness and response capacity in high-risk areas; emergency response to epidemics and natural disasters as appropriate. Apart from direct action to help those most in need, efforts will continue to draw high-level attention on the urgent need to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable populations in the Sahel and implement the Humanitarian-Development Nexus on a large scale. Programmable funding should be mobilised in addition to emergency funding in order to maintain access to basic services for the population and reduce the risks on social cohesion.

Interventions will primarily cover vulnerable populations in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria. In addition, Disaster Risk Reduction will be supported in some of these countries. In all West and Central Africa countries, a response to epidemics and new emergencies can be provided as appropriate; if important unmet humanitarian needs emerge.

### **Armed conflict in Mali and neighbouring countries**

The armed conflict in Mali and its regional spill-over effect is a forgotten humanitarian crisis. The humanitarian situation has clearly deteriorated in the **North, Centre of Mali and in bordering regions in Burkina Faso and Niger**. Radical armed groups are increasingly attacking regular armed forces and villages in the region; inter-community violence, antagonised by radical influences, is in sharp increase in Mali and Burkina Faso. This results in ever-greater civilian casualties, forced displacement and protection needs and lack of access to basic services. The situation is aggravated by counteractions by multiple military actors and an overall sense of impunity felt by the civilian population. In Western Sahel, the number of reported fatalities from political violence was higher over the first half of 2019 than during any full year since 2012<sup>36</sup>. Insecurity has disrupted the local economy, livelihoods and basic social services (especially health and education: over 100 health centres are dysfunctional and 3 000 schools are closed or non-operational) in the region. In **Burkina Faso**, the security situation has rapidly deteriorated in 2019, with violence spreading across western, northern and eastern regions of the country. Reported civilian deaths are four times the total number recorded in 2018. A state of emergency in 14 out of 45 provinces declared by the Burkinabé government in January 2019 has been extended. Frequent armed attacks, the use of improvised explosives devices, kidnappings and car-jackings, retaliatory aerial bombings, reports of summary executions have instilled a sense of fear amongst the local populations, triggering large internal displacements. In the **Niger** western regions of Tahoua

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<sup>36</sup>[https://www.acleddata.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/ACLED\\_TenConflicts2019\\_MidYearUpdate\\_8.2019.pdf](https://www.acleddata.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/ACLED_TenConflicts2019_MidYearUpdate_8.2019.pdf)

and Tillabery insecurity has also increased, with a number of attacks targeting the armed forces, diminishing the humanitarian space and threatening the working conditions of the humanitarian partners in the area.

Some 159 000 Malian and Burkinabe refugees in neighboring Niger, Mauritania, Ghana and Burkina Faso and 522 000 IDPs in Burkina, Mali and Niger have rather limited perspectives for a sustainable return.

The food and nutrition situation in the conflict affected region has not improved significantly, with 1.8 million people severely food insecure during the lean season, and 400 000 children under five with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).

In 2020, it is envisaged to continue providing emergency multi-sectorial assistance, protection, healthcare, nutrition and Education in Emergencies to the most vulnerable conflict-affected populations in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. In addition, it is planned to strengthen humanitarian access and coordination and address the multi-sectorial needs of Malian and Burkinabe refugees in neighbouring countries (Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger); to support nutrition to help reduce excessive morbidity and mortality of children under five in areas where Severe Acute Malnutrition has reached the emergency threshold; to provide adequate food assistance to populations facing severe food insecurity, while building resilience and linking with development actions to the largest extent possible. Support to enhancing preparedness and response capacity in high-risk areas is also foreseen, as well as emergency response to epidemics and natural disasters as appropriate.

### ***Lake Chad Basin crisis***

The humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad Basin, affecting Northeast Nigeria, the Diffa region of Niger, the Far North region of Cameroon and the Lake region of Chad and triggered by a regionalised armed conflict, remains massive and one of the largest in the world.

The stepping up of the humanitarian assistance in this region over the last three years resulted in many lives saved. However, the magnitude of the unmet basic humanitarian needs remains enormous and it has been further exacerbated by the deterioration of the situation in 2019.

The four affected countries host an estimated 2.6 million forcibly displaced people (IDPs, refugees and returnees). Violence and insecurity have also had a negative impact on the lives and livelihoods of 17.4 million people in the affected areas with 10.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance to survive. More than 6 million of them are children. The food security situation remains extremely fragile across the region; 3.6 million people are acutely food insecure and more than 500 000 children are suffering from SAM requiring life-saving treatment.

In Northeast Nigeria the situation is even more complex because of the lack of access to land, displacement, closure of trade routes and bans on traditional livelihood activities. Close to 3 million people require emergency food assistance and 440 000 children under five are in need of life-saving nutrition support. There are 1.8 million IDPs, 80% of whom are women and children. The IDPs camps are over-congested with hundreds of thousands of families in need of shelters. In addition, close to one million people are still in the so-called “hard-to-reach areas” that are without access to humanitarian assistance and to basic services. The alarming nutrition status of newly displaced children from these inaccessible areas is extremely severe and likely to be indicative of high levels of deprivation.

Epidemic outbreaks are frequent in the Lake Chad region, linked to poor health care coverage, over-congestion of the IDP camps and lack of access to clean water and sanitation (1.6 million people have access to less than three litres of water per person per day).

In 2020, the immediate priority of the humanitarian response in the four affected countries will be to maintain life-saving emergency assistance to the conflict-affected population (IDPs, refugees, returnees, local population and host communities), including in the hard-to-reach areas. Food assistance remains the top priority, followed by support to nutrition, health, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene. With the majority of the conflict-affected people having experienced significant psycho-social distress, protection remains at the heart of the operations, with urgent needs to address.

In parallel, DG ECHO will continue with a joint Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach to the extent possible with coordination and engagement with development and peace actors for a comprehensive response and to help build the resilience of the most vulnerable conflict-affected population.

### ***Central African Republic (CAR) regional crisis***

The situation in the Central African Republic remains volatile, despite the fact that the Government and 14 armed groups signed a Peace Agreement in February 2019. Insecurity continues to be a major concern and armed groups still have a very strong hold on the country.

Humanitarian needs remain very high due to recurrent outbreaks of violence, continuing protection threats, population displacements, widespread destruction of homes, extremely weak health services, disruption of basic services and livelihoods and high levels of food and nutrition insecurity. 2.9 million people – more than half of the population - are considered in need of humanitarian assistance. Close to 40% of the population are food insecure and one in four citizens (ca. 1.2 million people) has been forcibly displaced. The spillover of the crisis to neighbouring countries – notably DRC, Chad and Cameroon – continues with the refugee situation being protracted (some 275 000 refugees from CAR are still in Cameroon and 104 000 in Chad). Returns are also observed but the repatriated people face challenges in terms of peaceful co-existence with the communities in the areas of return. Quite often returnees are confronted with illegal occupation of their land and property.

CAR is one of the most dangerous countries for humanitarians. Humanitarian actors continue to operate in a highly insecure environment and remain targeted by armed groups and criminals, which greatly affects humanitarian access.

In 2020, the humanitarian response will continue to focus on life-saving assistance. Efforts will be supported to ensure a swift and flexible response capacity in this volatile context. Aid will encompass emergency food and nutrition assistance, short-term livelihood support, emergency health and WASH interventions, protection, provision of shelter and non-food items for the conflict-affected population in CAR and the neighbouring countries. Within the humanitarian remit, assistance for refugees in Cameroon and Chad should look to foster sustainable solutions and for actions to strengthen their self-reliance in view of the lack of perspectives for return in the short to medium-term. At the same time, it is important to adequately address the humanitarian needs of host communities and the conflict-affected local population.

In responding to the most pressing needs, humanitarian assistance in CAR and in the neighbouring countries will build as much as possible the resilience of affected populations,

pursuing a common approach with development partners. Activities will be closely coordinated with development cooperation instruments, whenever possible and more specifically with EU Trust Fund "Bèkou".

Advocacy efforts will continue to help ensure that the CAR crisis, including its regional dimension, becomes more visible on the international agenda and receives an adequate international response.

### ***EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa***

The EU Emergency Trust Fund for Stability and Addressing Root Causes of Irregular Migration and Displaced Persons in Africa (EUTF Africa)<sup>37</sup> was set up in late 2015 to finance activities in African countries crossed by major migrations routes responding to four objectives: create greater economic and employment opportunities; strengthen resilience of communities, and in particular the most vulnerable, as well as refugees and displaced; improve migration management in countries of origin, transit and destination; improve governance including conflict prevention and reinforcement of rule of law.

From the humanitarian perspective, it is important that the EUTF Africa continues to constitute a tool for increased complementarity and coordination between humanitarian and longer-term development interventions, in particular related to joint resilience and LRRD (Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development) initiatives in the three geographic windows of the EUTF (Sahel/Lake Chad, Horn of Africa, North Africa).

Currently its expiration date is fixed at November 2020. The duration could be extended subject to board approval.

## **2.4. East and Southern Africa**

### ***Upper Nile Basin<sup>38</sup>***

#### **South Sudan**

Following a peace deal signed in September 2018 to put an end to years of civil war, the creation of a transitional government has been postponed until November 2019. Clashes between armed actors have reduced significantly, yet the situation remains fragile and unpredictable.

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan remains very dire as the population continues to suffer the consequences of over five years of conflict. More than 4 million South Sudanese have been uprooted from their homes: 2.3 million of them have fled to neighbouring countries and 1.9 million are internally displaced. Around 182 000 IDPs live across five UNMISS Protection of Civilian sites. Food insecurity is at record levels, with 61% of the country's population (6.96 million people) in severe acute food insecurity, including 30 000 people facing famine conditions. Around 860 000 children under five are acutely malnourished and in need of treatment, while up to 2.2 million children are not receiving an education (the highest proportion of out-of-school children in the world). Gross human rights abuses are reported, including widespread SGBV. The country's health system is very weak and completely dependent on humanitarian and development donor support. South Sudan is very

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<sup>37</sup> C(2015)7293 of 20.10.2015

<sup>38</sup> The Upper Nile Basin HIP includes South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda

prone to large-scale epidemics and is considered at “very high” risk of cross-border propagation of the Ebola Virus Disease from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

South Sudan remains one of the most challenging countries to work and yet is also one of the largest humanitarian operations worldwide. The operational challenges are linked to a difficult logistical environment (poor infrastructure, seasonal flooding), insecurity, bureaucratic impediments, and pressure by all parties to the conflict to undermine principled humanitarian assistance. In response to these difficult operating conditions, donors have strengthened coordination, advocacy and programming to support a principled delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of South Sudan.

Under its 2020 strategy for South Sudan, DG ECHO will focus on the reduction of excess mortality and morbidity in the country, addressing in particular acute malnutrition, severe food insecurity and epidemics. Additionally, EU-funded actions will aim at providing protection for the most vulnerable, including for victims of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as addressing critical humanitarian needs through emergency lifesaving activities, in particular in the case of new shocks (conflict-related displacement, refugee and returnee influx, epidemic outbreaks, natural disasters/climate shock).

## **Sudan**

In April 2019, President Omar Al Bashir was removed after 30 years in power. In August 2019, a constitutional declaration was signed and a Prime Minister appointed, paving the way to a 39-month transition period that should lead to elections in 2022. This positive political development takes place against the background of a severe economic crisis affecting the whole population and resulting in a large increase in the number of people affected by food insecurity. At least 6,4 million people are food insecure, including 1,4 million people in emergency phase.

The humanitarian situation in Sudan is characterised by a variety of crisis, both man-made and natural (floods and localised droughts). Sudan hosts more than 1 million refugees and more than 2 million IDPs from the three unresolved conflicts in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile. Refugees and IDPs are particularly vulnerable and they have been the most affected by food insecurity with 90% unable to afford a meal a day. Chronic under-development and widespread poverty, exacerbated by those shocks, also negatively impact vulnerable populations’ coping capacities whilst access to basic services remain largely insufficient. This has even worsened due to the economic crisis that has been affecting Sudan since the beginning of 2018, as it has led to high prices of basic commodities and fuel shortages. Even with a successful civilian transition, the economic crisis will continue to affect the whole country in the short term. Expected economic reforms (removal of subsidies, increase of government revenues...) supported by the international community would come with a high social cost and would further increase vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs. The country also continues to face a critical nutrition situation, which represents a yearly burden of an estimated 2.47 million children under the age of 5 and Pregnant and Lactating Women affected by Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM), including 694 000 affected by its more severe form (SAM).

The recent prioritised Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) acknowledges an increase from the initial estimate of 5.7 million people to 8.5 million people in need of humanitarian aid and identifies the need for additional USD 150 million to ensure the response to immediate most critical life-saving activities still in 2019.

The operating environment in Sudan for humanitarian actors remains difficult, mainly due to logistical constraints, bureaucratic impediments and malfunctioning of line ministries and

government institutions as well as insecurity in conflict areas. These impediments have challenged an effective, principled and sustained access to affected populations. Some areas affected by years of conflict remain inaccessible. However, the recent political developments and priority given to signing peace agreements with rebel groups could positively impact on access conditions to these areas and on the overall operating environment. Security remains a concern in most conflict-affected areas (Darfur, Blue Nile, South and West Kordofan). The drawdown of UNAMID (United Nations - African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur) is a significant risk factor for the protection environment for civilians and is likely to affect humanitarian organisations' operating capacity.

Under its 2020 strategy for Sudan, DG ECHO will continue to focus on addressing critical and objectively assessed humanitarian needs through emergency lifesaving activities in particular in case of new shocks (conflict-related displacement/refugee influx, natural disasters/climate shocks, epidemic outbreaks). It will also contribute to the reduction of excess mortality and morbidity, addressing in particular Global Acute Malnutrition. DG ECHO will also contribute to durable solutions for protracted displacement situations, where there are opportunities to link emergency response to development actions, in particular in the context of the EU NEXUS process, in adherence to humanitarian principles and based on a thorough protection analysis.

## **Uganda**

Uganda continues to be the largest recipient refugee country in Africa, with over 1.3 million refugees mostly from South Sudan and DRC.

The continuous influx of refugees in 2019, mainly from DRC, has required the humanitarian response to focus on the improvement of reception conditions and extension of basic services to this new refugee population in the extended settlements and host communities. In parallel, the response has strived to improve the registration and assistance systems across the refugee response as well as to increasing the level of accountability to beneficiaries. Uganda is also prone to a number of large-scale epidemics and is at “very high” risk of cross-border propagation of the Ebola Virus Disease from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The overall Refugee Response Plan 2019-2020 is severely underfunded whilst most refugees depend on an appropriate level of lifesaving assistance to meet their basic needs. In addition, the pressure on natural resources creates tensions between refugee and host communities.

The complementarity with long-term interventions is instrumental to support the self-reliance policy promoted by Uganda and enhanced by the CRRF (Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework). The EU NEXUS process is a contribution to the CRRF roll-out in the country to better address the situation of populations affected by forced displacement (both refugee and host communities), ensure their protection and strengthen their dignity and self-resilience, while also strengthening the resilience of government-led response systems and creating a conducive political environment.

DG ECHO's strategy for 2020 will focus on addressing the most critical humanitarian needs of new influxes as well as host communities, through a wide range of lifesaving interventions with strong protection outcomes and including access to basic services. Strengthening the collaboration of humanitarian, development and political/diplomatic players on the ground is an important element of the Nexus process. More concretely sectors identified as focal sectors for EU Nexus programming will be prioritised: targeted protection activities, including gender based violence response programming; food assistance through cash-based interventions; water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, privileging sustainable and cost-efficient options; health, with a focus on surveillance and epidemic response; Education in Emergencies (EiE),

focusing on out of school children. Finally, in the framework of the disaster preparedness strategy the focus is to strengthen national, district and local capacities for epidemics surveillance on one side and the linkages between Early Warning and Early Action for all types of emergency on the other side. In its response, DG ECHO will continue paving the way for a conducive environment for more sustainable livelihood and self-reliance, for the set-up of a social protection scheme with the use of cash modality whenever relevant and for more aid efficiency.

## ***Horn of Africa***

### **Djibouti**

In 2019, Djibouti still hosts over 29 000 refugees and asylum seekers, the majority from Somalia and Ethiopia, and more recently from Yemen. They live mainly in three camps; all located in highly food insecure areas, with very limited access to any form of livelihoods and a full dependence on external food assistance, as well as in urban areas. A significant number of migrants, mostly from Ethiopia, continue transiting the country in their way to the Gulf States and vice versa, and some are choosing to stay in the country. Given the volatile situation in the neighbouring countries, refugee arrivals are expected to continue.

In 2020, the priority for DG ECHO will remain the support to newly arrived and protracted refugee populations with response to core humanitarian needs in camps, including access to WASH services and food assistance using the most appropriate and cost effective transfer modality, preferably cash. Protection activities focusing on registration and documentation of refugees and asylum seekers and comprehensive assistance to victims of violence will be also considered.

### **Ethiopia**

The country is facing three major types of humanitarian crisis: conflict, climate shocks and disease outbreaks. Intense inter-ethnic conflicts over the past 2 years have caused massive internal displacements that brought the country in the first place of highest numbers of new IDPs in 2018, before DRC, Syria and Yemen<sup>39</sup>. As of May 2019, over 3.1 million Ethiopians were internally displaced. Inter-communal tensions have become increasingly ethnically motivated and politicised resulting into widespread violence and massive displacement. It is estimated that there are approximately 2.4 million Ethiopians who are still currently displaced, following the implementation of a massive governmental plan for returns. Many returns were described and qualified as non-voluntary, which led to secondary displacement as well as IDPs dispersing within host communities in the place of displacement. Most IDPs still face high needs for humanitarian support. Lack of accountability and justice around the violence, limited progress on peace and reconciliation and deeply rooted issues related to housing, land and property could bring further instability and insecurity and question the sustainability of the return policy pushed by the Government.

Ethiopia currently hosts approximately 700 000 refugees according to latest biometric registration figures from July 2019. Needs remain high for refugee populations with additional influxes expected to continue especially from South Sudan and Eritrea. The number of new arrivals from Eritrea in Ethiopia initially increased after the 2018 peace deal and subsequent increased facility to cross the border - but it is now largely stabilised. Given the absence of any change to the situation inside Eritrea, refugees are expected to continue to

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<sup>39</sup> IDMC 2018 report



come to Ethiopia fleeing the indefinite military service, harsh oppression and violation of human rights and the lack of economic opportunities. Food and nutrition insecurity persist in the camps, as does the risk of epidemics due to limited access to basic services. Tensions between refugees and host communities remain high in Gambella. Since March 2017 and the expulsion by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of large number of Ethiopians living without proper immigration status, massive return operations have taken place and continue to date. As of August 2019, 300 000 irregular migrants are estimated to have returned to Ethiopia, 90% of these returns being considered involuntary and most of the returnees being detained in Saudi Arabia prior to their deportation.

Approximately 9 million people need humanitarian assistance due to a new drought in 2019 and the impact of consecutive droughts in the previous years, as well as massive conflict-induced internal displacements. Nationwide, the number of people considered in need of food assistance and nutrition emergency response (excluding conflict IDPs) is estimated over 6 million. It is estimated that 4 million children under the age of 5, and Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) are in need of treatment for moderate acute malnutrition and that an additional 609 000 children would be suffering from life-threatening severe acute malnutrition.

High levels of food insecurity and malnutrition are projected to persist through at least early 2020 across large areas. Despite the mobilisation of the international community, the response to humanitarian needs in Ethiopia remain seriously underfunded with critical food pipeline shortages and the scale of crises reaching levels beyond the capacity of the Ethiopian government alone.

In 2020, DG ECHO will target in priority populations affected by internal conflict and violence, including populations in displacement, communities hosting/affected by displacement and populations returned/integrated/relocated, populations affected by cross-border displacement (refugees and returnees arriving in Ethiopia and in need of immediate humanitarian support), as well as populations affected by climatic shocks (drought, floods) and by epidemics. Life-saving programmes will be supported, prioritising the most acute needs. Support may also include registration and documentation as applicable, Protection including prevention and response to SGBV and Education in Emergencies, with a focus on primary and secondary education. In addition, DG ECHO will also focus on Emergency Preparedness and Response for populations that continue to be seriously affected by drought/floods in the South and South-East of Ethiopia, taking into account their significant loss of livestock and eroding coping mechanisms. Priority will be given to rapid response to small-scale man-made and natural disasters, such as sudden climate shocks or increase in IDP numbers.

## **Kenya**

In 2019, Kenya faced recurrent conflict caused by competition for constrained resources, as well as insecurity, especially near the border with Somalia and Ethiopia. Kenya continues to host more than 474 000 refugees, mostly from Somalia and South Sudan, but also DRC and Ethiopia, who are fully dependent on international humanitarian assistance. A slow but steady influx is ongoing from South Sudan due to the volatile situation and high food insecurity there. The Government's 2019 renewed intention to close Dadaab camp builds on the previous 2016 announcement, which at the time led to an increase in returns of Somali refugees. The pace of returns has significantly reduced since its peak in 2017 and even more in 2019 due to the persistent drought and the sustained conflict in Somalia. However, Kenya-South Sudan and Kenya-Somalia cross-border movements remain high. In addition, Kenya is affected by climate related events, impacting mostly the most vulnerable households in remote areas, where response is undermined by weak coordination and lack of harmonisation.

After a number of consecutive failed rainy seasons, agricultural and pastoral communities have lost the ability to cope as their resources have been depleted. It is estimated that 2,6 million people will require food assistance by the end of the year, while the number of malnourished children is estimated over 113 000.

DG ECHO's support for Kenya in 2020 will focus on basic survival services (food, WaSH, health nutrition, protection and Education in Emergencies) for refugees and asylum seekers living in camps. Efforts will also be made to link humanitarian interventions for refugees with durable solutions, particularly for those living in Dadaab, following the recent reminder made by the government to find a long-term solution for the more than 210 000 people living in this camp. Support will be well articulated with the longer-term actions funded by other EU instruments and donors, avoiding overlap. In the event of potential new crisis (eg drought, floods), DG ECHO would focus on the most vulnerable population and support a coordinated and harmonised response pending funding availability.

## **Somalia**

Somalia still represents one of the most serious and complex humanitarian crises in the world. The armed conflict is still on-going, primarily between the AMISOM -supported Government and multiple regional security forces, and Al Shabaab, with emerging reports of Islamic State presence. This causes massive displacement, mostly internally, civilian casualties, including grave violations of children's rights, destruction of property and decimation of livelihoods. IHL and human rights violations are widespread. The conflict situation is a stalemate, with no end in sight of very high levels of insecurity. Restricted access and high insecurity are major challenges for aid agencies.

In 2019, Somalia hosted around 35 000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from Ethiopia and Yemen. Internal displacement continued unabated, mainly due to conflict and drought. The overall number of IDPs in Somalia amounts to around 2.6 million people countrywide, located mostly around the urban hubs of main cities. Water scarcity and the lack of facilities and public services have led to a critical health situation, with regular outbreaks of acute watery diarrhoea /cholera and measles. Forced evictions of IDPs and urban poor people continue to be a major risk in Somalia's urban areas, mainly in Mogadishu, Kismayo and Hargeisa with more than 136 000 people<sup>40</sup> (one civilian in 90) forcibly evicted from their homes between January-June 2019. Although evictions decreased by 19% in comparison with the same period last year, they remain a significant protection problem. In addition, grave violations against children's right are on the rise.

Somalia has been facing another severe drought due to the combined impact of another failing rains' season and harsh weather conditions during the January-March 2019 period. This has come very quickly after a period of two years, or four consecutive seasons, of severe drought conditions. It affected a population, which did not have the opportunity to recover from the previous drought episodes. Crop failure and accelerated decline in livestock productivity have rapidly pushed communities in many parts of Somalia into acute food insecurity crisis and emergency phase or worse. While large-scale famine has been averted due to timely and scaled-up response in previous years, the number of people in need of humanitarian food assistance remains high with some 2.1 million people in crisis (IPC 3) and emergency (IPC 4) in the last quarter of 2019<sup>41</sup>. All are in need of emergency food assistance and interventions to

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<sup>40</sup> UNHCR Report, June 2019

<sup>41</sup> Somalia Drought Impact Response Plan (DIRP), July 2019

prevent high levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition. Over 1 million children under-5 are acutely malnourished (GAM<sup>42</sup>) including 178 400 suffering from severe malnutrition<sup>43</sup>.

In 2020, DG ECHO will prioritise actions based on a comprehensive context analysis, and will continue to focus on emergency response through life-saving activities for populations recently displaced by acute crises (conflict and natural disasters) or exposed to epidemics, based on commonly defined and agreed vulnerability criteria. In addition, support will be provided to strengthen early response capacity in case of new shocks. Areas with high level of displacement, IPC 3+ and high prevalence of acute malnutrition will be the first focus. Projects in Education in Emergencies will focus on reaching displaced out-of-school boys and girls with relevant education opportunities. DG ECHO will encourage integrated, multi-sector actions programming goes hand in hand wherever appropriate and feasible to facilitate development linkages and Nexus.

Due to the restricted access, partners will be strongly encouraged to consider innovative ways of accessing difficult to reach populations and monitoring the quality of the services they provide and increase the involvement of communities and the acceptance of parties to the conflict through their conduct, demonstrated neutrality and impartiality and the quality of service provision.

### ***Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (SAIO)***

In March 2019 Tropical Cyclone Idai caused extensive loss of life, large-scale destruction of infrastructure, homes and crops. Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, and was one of the worst weather-related disasters in Southern Africa. In Zimbabwe, this crisis came on top of a severe food insecurity situation, exacerbated by the macroeconomic context.

On April 25, Mozambique was hit by a second powerful tropical cyclone, Kenneth, which hit the northern part of Mozambique. Prior to landfall, its eye passed north of Grande Comore, the main island of Comoros, causing flooding and destruction in both Comoros and Mozambique.

It was the first time in history that two strong cyclones hit Mozambique during the same season. Moreover, Kenneth was the strongest cyclone ever recorded in Mozambique.

As illustrated by the cyclones, the SAIO region is exposed to various hazards, including also floods, drought and epidemics resulting in loss of lives, livelihood assets, economic losses and population displacement, making it necessary to support disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience.

The overall food security situation in the region looks set to deteriorate and the number of severely food insecure people likely to rise in some countries in the region. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes prevail in cyclone-affected areas of Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and areas significantly affected by drought and the deteriorating macro-economic context in Zimbabwe. Poor crop performance due to variable and late rainfall affected significant portions of Lesotho, Eswatini, and southern Mozambique, while the impact of cyclones Idai and Kenneth caused damage and destruction to harvests in eastern Zimbabwe, southern Malawi, and central Mozambique. Up to 24 million people are estimated to be food insecure between June 2019 to March 2020.

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<sup>42</sup> Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)

<sup>43</sup> UNICEF Report, June 2019

Lessons learned from the 2019 Tropical Cyclones as well as other repeated and recurrent disasters confirm the need to improve preparedness at regional, national, district and local level. National response systems need to be strengthened, reinforcing the link between early warning and early action in particular in the most at risk areas including urban settings. There is a need to support the development of Shock Responsive Social Protection Systems, reinforce community/district and province preparedness and capacity for early warning and early action and continue piloting/scale-up and use of innovative technologies while creating links with development actions aimed to incorporate them in their long-term programmes. Capacity strengthening on cash transfer modalities and preparedness is still needed both among governmental and non-governmental actors.

There is also a need to strengthen education systems to prepare for and respond to disasters, and to further scale up DRR activities in schools in areas at risk.

In this context, humanitarian priorities for DG ECHO in 2020 in the SAIO region will be based on three pillars: 1) Enhance preparedness and resilience, 2) Education in Emergencies and 3) humanitarian response when national/local capacity is overwhelmed. Actions under the first two pillars will be prioritised in Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Madagascar. Pillar 3 covers all countries in the region<sup>44</sup>. DG ECHO will prioritise building on lessons learnt and best practices.

### ***Great Lakes region***

Overall, the Great Lakes region continues to be confronted with a multitude of crises, both protracted and acute, affecting a large number of people. Crises include armed conflicts and high levels of insecurity, leading to recurrent forced displacement, food insecurity and under-nutrition, but also recurrent outbreaks of epidemics – such as measles, malaria, cholera, yellow fever, dengue and Ebola – and natural disasters. Many crisis-affected people lack livelihood opportunities and often live in extreme poverty. Access to basic social services and the rule of law are inadequate, especially in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and in Burundi. The protection of civilians in conflict-affected areas is another major concern in the DRC.

Conflicts in the Great Lakes are dynamic and cause a high level of displacement within and across national borders. The region hosts around one million refugees, mainly from Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda, CAR and South Sudan. The DRC, Tanzania and Rwanda host the largest numbers of refugees. General elections are scheduled in Burundi for mid-2020 and may cause another refugee influx into neighbouring countries as it happened previously. In addition, internal displacement is particularly high in the DRC but also in Burundi.

In the DRC, high humanitarian needs exist throughout the country, but the situation remains particularly challenging with ongoing complex emergencies and crises in the eastern provinces of North and South Kivu, Tanganyika and Ituri. Out of 178 countries, the DRC is considered to be the fifth most fragile state in the world in 2019. Significant protection concerns exist, including a high prevalence of gender-based violence.

In addition, the 10<sup>th</sup> outbreak of Ebola virus disease in the DRC – the largest ever in the country and the first one to occur in a conflict zone has further aggravated the humanitarian

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<sup>44</sup> For the purposes of the 2020 Humanitarian Implementation Plan, the countries included in the Southern Africa, Indian Ocean region are: Botswana, Comoros Islands, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, and Zimbabwe

situation in the affected eastern provinces of the country, while demanding Ebola preparedness action also in the surrounding countries.

However, it is food insecurity and under-nutrition – and not Ebola – which represents the most significant humanitarian problem in the DRC with millions going hungry and including two million children reportedly acutely severely malnourished. Part of the problem is linked to the high insecurity. Since 2018, violence has taken hold in previously peaceful areas and often prevents access to local markets and farmers from tilling their land which further contributes to the deterioration of humanitarian conditions. However, southern provinces of the DRC are also affected by increasing drought conditions that also trouble neighbouring countries Zambia and Angola. Zambia and parts of Angola face increased acute food insecurity due to erratic and low rains that have deteriorated the food security situation.

Burundi's political crisis, ongoing since 2015, has triggered a major socio-economic downturn in an already very poor and fragile country. While it is difficult to obtain reliable data, an estimated 1.7 million people are reportedly food insecure in 2019. A worsening economy threatens to incite further violence in an already unstable country. Violations of human rights occur. Political tensions may rise in the run up to the elections announced for mid-2020. Over 300 000 Burundian refugees live in neighbouring countries, the majority in Tanzania (around 200 000) which increased the pressure to repatriate despite the fact that the situation inside Burundi is not considered conducive for returns.

In 2020, DG ECHO will address urgent needs arising from population displacements in conflict zones and life-threatening situations in non-conflict areas in DRC. A particular attention will be given to the protection of civilians affected by conflict. DG ECHO will continue supporting emergency response mechanisms to ensure swift response capacity in such volatile contexts.

Food insecurity and acute malnutrition in the region will also be addressed, respecting emergency thresholds and taking into account local capacities and overall funding availability.

DG ECHO will continue supporting the Ebola response and preparedness measures within a larger EU support. It will encourage partners responding to the Ebola outbreak to have a holistic approach, addressing also the larger humanitarian needs in the targeted locations.

In the region, DG ECHO will prioritise its humanitarian support on the provision of immediate multi-sectorial assistance and protection responding to the basic needs of new refugees, while working on longer term solutions with development actors for the more protracted situations. Advocacy for the voluntary character of any refugee return will be pursued. In Burundi, DG ECHO will focus mainly on protection activities, as well as disaster preparedness actions.

In line with the humanitarian/development nexus commitments, DG ECHO will continue to be actively involved in the search for self-reliance solutions in forced displacement settings, for both IDPs and refugees, in the Great Lakes' region, in coordination with development partners. Advocacy for the respect of humanitarian space, principles and international humanitarian law (IHL) will be maintained, along with support for humanitarian coordination and logistics whenever relevant, including the provision of humanitarian ECHO Flight services to access remote areas in the DRC and to continue supporting the response to the Ebola outbreak.

## ***ECHO Flight***

In 2020, DG ECHO aims to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid by supporting humanitarian air transport, to ensure that aid is accessible to beneficiaries.

ECHO Flight opens up humanitarian access by providing dedicated, efficient, safe and cost-effective humanitarian air transport to remote locations that would otherwise be cut off from the rest of the world. ECHO Flight is vital for many humanitarian partner organisations operating in some regions of Africa, as it would be extremely difficult to implement many humanitarian projects without this transport option. ECHO Flight facilitates partners' humanitarian response and improves the quality of humanitarian operations by allowing more frequent monitoring and evaluation missions. ECHO Flight's current limited scale (at present, six planes operating in specific countries of operations) and flexibility allows it to respond promptly to humanitarian emergencies, medical evacuations and security evacuations, as was the case for the two 2018 Ebola outbreaks in DRC.

ECHO Flight directly benefits the staff of various implementing agencies in the regions where it operates, and indirectly benefits the population targeted by humanitarian and development programmes funded by the European Union and other donors. Several million people in need of assistance benefit indirectly from the programme.

Field staff productivity is increased because rotations can be organised to allow staff to rest and recuperate on a regular basis. The capacity to carry out emergency evacuations by air is a prerequisite for many organisations' projects.

ECHO Flight is also an important component of DG ECHO's security plan for its offices located in South Sudan, Central African Republic and DRC.

ECHO Flight directly supports between 300 and 350 projects in the DRC, Kenya and Mali. In addition, ECHO Flight in Kenya travels close to the Somali and Ethiopian border. Specific monitoring missions within Somalia are also operated from Nairobi. ECHO Flight transports more than 2 100 passengers and 15 tonnes of cargo per month.

## **2.5. Eastern Neighbourhood and Western Balkans**

### ***Turkey***

The impact of the Syria regional crisis continues to be felt in Turkey, which is now hosting over 3.6 million Syrians under Temporary Protection, and continues to host the largest refugee population in the world of around 4 million refugees. The potential for a sudden large influx of refugees following any worsening of the situation in northern Syria cannot be ruled out. Despite the generosity of the Turkish Government and EU support under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey, most refugees continue to face difficulties, including socio-economic vulnerability. Analysis through external evaluation of the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme shows that 71% are economically vulnerable, with 86% working in the informal sector and thus at risk of exploitation. In 2020, DG ECHO will continue to implement a programme of humanitarian response focused on the most vulnerable refugees, while working to ensure a transition strategy to support through longer-term and development aid and Turkish Government services. DG ECHO will focus on: 1) basic needs, through a continuation of the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), which has already supported over 1.6 million refugees; 2) Education in Emergencies, including continuing the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE), until the end of the year, and a focus on Out of School Children; 3) specific interventions in health to cover any gaps in Turkish Government services; and 4) protection of the most vulnerable refugees, in particular unregistered

refugees. In 2020, DG ECHO funding in Turkey will no longer be coordinated under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey, of which the funding envelope was completely allocated in 2019. Under the Facility envelope for 2019, DG ECHO provided funding for the ESSN to continue throughout 2020 and for the CCTE to continue until October 2020. So, while DG ECHO will continue to support implementation of these projects, it will not provide new funding in 2020, unless limited funding is needed until medium to long-term solutions are confirmed.

### ***Ukraine***

After almost six years of conflict, the situation in eastern Ukraine remains extremely volatile and adversely affects the civilian population living on both sides of the Line of Contact. Humanitarian needs are particularly acute in the Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCA) and along the line of contact 'hotspots'. It is estimated that nearly 3.5 million People remain in need of humanitarian assistance.

In 2020, the situation is expected to be even more unpredictable, notably due to the change of the political landscape in Ukraine and its potential impact on the almost frozen peace process as regards to unresolved conflict in Ukraine. There is a trend of decreased engagement from humanitarian donors, not yet adequately replaced by development/reform support actors in the Government Controlled Area (GCA), while in the NGCA there are no prospects in terms of humanitarian-development nexus. Moreover, the lack of efficient central coordination inside the government, coupled with the absence of a comprehensive legislative framework, undermines the quality of and opportunities for humanitarian response. In 2019, access for humanitarian actors has not improved in the NGCA, whereby only a few DG ECHO partners have been granted permission to operate. Although operational modalities remain restricted, there are, nevertheless, windows of opportunity to scale up the assistance. However, considering the need to prioritize, DG ECHO will focus its assistance on the most pressing needs in the area of health, shelter/WASH, basic needs, Education in Emergencies and protection. DG ECHO will continue to advocate for improved humanitarian space and respect of rights of the conflict affected population at all levels and with all parties to the conflict.

### ***Western Balkans***

While the so-called Western Balkans migratory route remained closed since March 2016, a new migratory route leading via Bosnia and Herzegovina emerged in 2018. Due to low coordination and migration management capacities of the state authorities to respond to the needs of the Population of Concern (PoC), the international community has been providing basic assistance to those in need despite numerous challenges and difficult political context in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since the beginning of 2018, the EU has allocated a total of € 36 million to address the needs of increased presence of migrants and refugees in the country. While the bulk of assistance has been taken over by the EU mid-term actors, emergency humanitarian assistance will still be required in 2020 to address the needs of the most vulnerable PoC, especially those located outside of the reception facilities. EU humanitarian support will focus on protection, health, shelter/WASH and basic needs. Further assistance may be necessary to respond to the needs or fill the gaps, depending on the number of refugees and migrants transiting through the Western Balkans.

## **2.6. Middle East**

### ***Syria Regional Crisis***

The Syria conflict continues to cause massive displacement, casualties and tremendous suffering of the civilian population. Over 11.7 million people remain in need of humanitarian assistance of whom 5 million are in acute need, 5 million children and 3 million people with disabilities. There are over 6.2 million internally displaced people (IDPs) in Syria. The conflict remains characterised by blatant violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and widespread human rights abuses by parties to the conflict. In 2019, as part of its principled and needs-based humanitarian response throughout the country, DG ECHO continued to scale-up and adapt its humanitarian assistance in response to increasing humanitarian needs resulting from large-scale offensives in central, southwest and, finally, northwest Syria. The situation is particularly of serious concern in the province of Idlib (Northwest Syria), where over 3 million civilians are in dire humanitarian need.

In 2020, DG ECHO will continue to provide swift and needs-based multi-sectoral life-saving response. Sectors will include protection, health, WASH, coordination, livelihood support, education, emergency preparedness and first line response. Assessments suggest that humanitarian access and protection of civilians, including humanitarian workers, will remain serious challenges. DG ECHO will prioritise assistance to most vulnerable people, regardless of their geographical location, and based on operational capacities of partners. While conditions for return are still not met, DG ECHO will continue to provide its assistance based on needs and not on status. DG ECHO will also continue to keep risk management central in its response strategy. It will continue its strong humanitarian advocacy to ensure respect of IHL, enhanced access and protection of civilians. While it is premature to consider exit scenarios due to a co-existence of both protracted and acute humanitarian needs at scale in Syria, DG ECHO will continue seeking coherence and complementarity with other EU financial instruments.

### ***Jordan***

In 2019, Jordan was hosting 745,110 refugees<sup>45</sup>, the second highest number of refugees per capita in the world. This number includes 654,955<sup>46</sup> Syrians, out of which 531,979 live in urban areas while 122,976 reside in camps. Despite a relatively successful regularisation exercise to formalise the status of Syrian refugees residing in urban areas, access to basic services remains a major issue for undocumented refugees who could also be victims of forced relocation inside refugee camps. Three years after the closure of the north-eastern border with Syria, approximately 25 000 people are still stranded at the “Berm” on the Syrian side of the border (Rukban). Most of those still present in Rukban are not willing or able to leave due to personal security reasons related to different political affiliations, lack of access to their areas of origin and/or previous engagements with various military fractions.

In 2020, DG ECHO will continue assisting refugees in host communities, in refugee camps and at the Berm, focusing on access to basic services, protection, health and education. In parallel, DG ECHO will strengthen its efforts with other EU instruments to ensure a smooth transition to longer-term solutions for refugees and host communities in Jordan.

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<sup>45</sup> UNHCR, Oct2019

<sup>46</sup> UNHCR, Oct2019



## ***Lebanon***

Lebanon hosts the highest number of refugees per capita worldwide. Lebanon came out of a longstanding political stalemate when a new government was finally formed in January 2019 after 9 months of stalled negotiations that followed parliamentary elections in 2018. Growing economic and financial concerns also linked to the regional crisis (bleak economic outlook, systemic inefficiencies, deteriorating fiscal situation due to falling tax revenue and higher public debt) feed social instability. The refugee issue is at the center of political debates. It has translated into strong resentment towards Syrian refugees, both in rhetoric and actual clashes with host communities, favouring a pro-returns agenda.

At the same time, increasingly coercive and restrictive measures towards refugees by the Government in recent years have led refugees into further illegality and worsening of their basic living conditions, potentially acting as push factors for returns. As many as 73% of refugees reportedly lack legal stay, which further exposes them to exploitation and harassment, fosters negative coping mechanisms, and limits adequate access to services. The protection environment is significantly degrading, with a high incidence of events/measures targeting Syrian refugees (e.g. raids, evictions, demolitions, arrests, confiscation of documents and assets, shop closures, curfews).

Based on the evolution of the situation and the heightened protection risks, DG ECHO response in 2020 will maintain its focus on protection and provision of life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable refugees. Protection and accountability remain key elements in the DG ECHO strategy for Lebanon. Close coordination between different EU services and instruments will continue to be paramount in ensuring operational continuity of actions under longer-term assistance mechanisms.

## ***Palestine<sup>47</sup>***

The civilian population in Palestine continues to suffer from the consequences of the ongoing Israeli occupation and recurrent IHL violations. In Gaza, Israeli restrictions on the entry of goods and people, reduced financial support by the Palestinian Authority and recurrent bouts of violence lead to increased vulnerabilities of the population. Between March 2018 and July 2019, 309 Palestinians were killed and over 30 000 injured by Israeli forces during demonstrations at the perimeter fence between Gaza and Israel, which has put a severe strain on the health sector.

Living conditions are deteriorating at an alarming rate due to the closure of the Strip. Record-high levels of unemployment have reduced people's purchasing power and their access to food. In 2020, DG ECHO will continue to assist and protect increasingly vulnerable communities of Gaza exposed to conflict and those who struggle to cope with a steadily deteriorating situation.

In the West Bank, DG ECHO will continue supporting vulnerable communities at risk of displacement and who lack access to basic services. In 2020, humanitarian assistance in Palestine will maintain its focus on protection and humanitarian advocacy. Close coordination within Commission services and with the EEAS will continue to ensure programmatic complementarity between immediate relief and resilience-building.

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<sup>47</sup> 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.

## **2.7. North Africa, Iraq and Arabian Peninsula**

### ***Iraq***

In early 2018 the whole of the territory previously held by Da'esh was fully retaken. Since then public government services have resumed, with the support of international donors, although large gaps remain, and recovery and rehabilitation activities have progressed only slowly. According to the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), 6.7 million people are still in need of humanitarian assistance in Iraq, and large scale displacement persists: approximately 1.6 million people remain displaced of which 293 000 are still living in camps. Returnees in many areas throughout the country lack basic services, livelihood opportunities, and still face insecurity. Ninewa Governorate is the epicentre of the crisis, hosting about 30% of IDPs and 46% of Iraqis in need of humanitarian assistance. In addition, an estimated 250 000 Syrian refugees live in the country, mostly in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). With the start of Peace Spring operation in North-East Syria, over 13 600 refugees have crossed into KRI. They have been provided with shelter, core relief items, and support to access basic services. While a massive refugee influx seems unlikely at present, the situation remains very volatile. DG ECHO and its humanitarian partners are closely monitoring cross-border movements and updated contingency plans.

As result of the conflict, the number of people deprived of freedom has risen dramatically. Places of detention are seriously overcrowded (135% average overcrowding rate, with peaks of up to 541%) with major protection and humanitarian concerns. The detention of children is of particular concern, including third country national children.

In 2020, DG ECHO will continue to support humanitarian assistance and the protection of the most vulnerable populations prioritising sectors and situations of concern where humanitarian needs are more acute and where partners could have a tangible impact. Balanced humanitarian assistance, protection and advocacy are required in interventions responding to protracted needs and to vulnerability emanating from political decisions or lack thereof. DG ECHO will maintain its focus on multi-sectoral life-saving actions. DG ECHO will continue to promote the transition from pure emergency response to mid-term interventions, whilst maintaining humanitarian standards, in an effort to improve the daily living conditions of those in protracted displacement in camps.

### ***Yemen***

The world's largest humanitarian crisis continues to deteriorate after five years of conflict due to the combination of military intensification, political fragmentation, direct violence on civilians and civilian infrastructure compounded by the collapse of state institutions, national economy and functioning of private sector. This in addition to recurrent epidemics and risk of natural disasters. The scale of the humanitarian crisis in Yemen is not only alarming in terms of percentage of population affected with 24.1 million or 80% of the Yemenis in need, but also in terms of severity of the needs. Food insecurity now affects 20 million people with at least 238 000 Yemenis in Famine conditions according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. The number of women and children suffering from acute malnutrition has doubled since the start of the conflict in 2015, reaching now 3.1 million people and 360 000 children under five years old are suffering from severe malnutrition. Three million people are internally displaced and one additional million has returned.

In 2020, DG ECHO will focus on multi-sector and integrated interventions addressing the needs of people directly exposed to conflict and displacement and to the health, nutrition and food security crises. Furthermore, DG ECHO will build further on the existing Rapid Response Mechanism to new displacement and will contribute to coordination and critical

logistical capacities, which have been overstretched by the increasing needs, complexity of the response, operational challenges and deterioration of the provision of public services. DG ECHO will geographically prioritize its response to locations with the highest concentration of life-saving needs: 1) Areas of active conflict and populations trapped in conflict zones; 2) Areas hosting large numbers of newly displaced people and; 3) Areas with high levels of malnutrition, food insecurity or epidemics.

### ***Libya***

Since the fall of Qaddafi's regime in 2011, the competition for political power and control of the country's strategic and economic resources between different factions pose a threat against humanitarian access. Insecurity has worsened over the last months, in particular with violent fighting in and around Tripoli (since April 2019) and around Murzuq in the south (since August 2019). The country's economy has been severely affected by the conflict and by the absence of a functioning government. This has significantly impacted the lives of the population with shortages in medical, food and fuel supplies, multiple displacements, breakdown of the social and medical infrastructure, disruption of basic services and communication, and IHL violations. According to the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, approximately 268 629 people have been internally displaced at the end of May 2019 (this figure does not include about 10 000 individuals displaced due to the conflict in Murzuq plus at least about 30 000 additional displacements that have taken place around Tripoli from June onwards), and about 823 000 are in need of humanitarian assistance (IDPs, returnees, host populations, migrants and refugees).

In 2020, DG ECHO will focus mainly on protection, health (pursuing a Humanitarian-Development- Peace Nexus approach to the largest extent possible), shelter, Education in Emergencies, food and non-food items. Continued support will be provided to advocate for the respect of IHL and initiatives aiming at strengthening local partners' capacities to implement an appropriate humanitarian response.

### ***Algeria - Sahrawi refugee crisis***

The Sahrawi refugees hosted in five camps in Southwest Algeria (near Tindouf) are almost entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance, with little prospect for return, integration or resettlement. Humanitarian funding to this forgotten crises has decreased by 28% in 2019 as compared to 2018. The EU humanitarian funding represents now more than 50% of the overall assistance.

In 2020, DG ECHO will continue to focus on basic needs such as food assistance, water and sanitation, essential medicines and Education in Emergencies. In parallel, DG ECHO will keep advocating for more burden sharing by other donors and other EU instruments that could support livelihood and self-reliance initiatives. The employment opportunities are particularly important for the young people who feel increasingly frustrated by their dependency on aid and bleak future prospect.

### ***Egypt***

A population of almost 250 000 refugees registered with the UNHCR is located in some of the most overcrowded and poorest neighbourhoods of its largest cities. Syrians account for over 50% of these refugees, with the remaining are mainly from East Africa, Iraq and Yemen. The reduced arrival of Syrians is counter-balanced by the continuing arrival of other nationalities. Among the refugees are 3 870 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), who continue arriving at the rate of 100-150 per month. Refugees face the challenges of a

protracted urban refugee situation in an impoverished urban setting where hosting communities suffer similar levels of vulnerability and needs. Over 84% of all refugees are classified as “severely” or “highly” vulnerable while some 60% recur to negative coping mechanisms.

In 2020, DG ECHO will continue supporting the urban refugee caseload, and new arrivals, by consolidating and expanding its niche response addressing the basic needs of the most vulnerable. DG ECHO’s response strategy aims at expanding basic needs approach through multi-purpose cash transfer to the most vulnerable, addressing core protection gaps and delivering emergency health and education.

## **2.8. Asia, Latin America, Caribbean and Pacific**

### ***South West Asia and Central Asia Region***

#### **Afghanistan**

The conflict in Afghanistan has continued to intensify over the last years and was qualified as the deadliest conflict worldwide<sup>48</sup>. In 2018 alone, close to 11 000 civilian casualties were counted, of which more than 3000 were killed. The situation was compounded by natural disasters, such as the impact of the 2018 drought and the March/April 2019 floods. The 2019 UN Humanitarian Needs Overview identified 6.3 million people in direct humanitarian need, nearly double the figure identified for 2018 (3.3 million). A total of at least 3.4 million people are internally displaced, with 220 000 people newly displaced between January and August 2019. Severe food insecurity affects 13.5 million people throughout the country, of which over 3 million people are acutely affected.

The protracted conflict continues to imply that there are 2.4 million registered Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan and an estimated equal number of undocumented Afghans without official refugee status or the associated protection. Afghan refugees represent the second largest refugee group worldwide and the first contingent of asylum seekers to the EU in 2019. The number of registered refugee returns from Pakistan had dropped considerably since 2016 but the number of returns from Iran saw a significant increase in 2018, reaching 800 000 people, many of them deported. This trend continued in 2019. Their return puts an additional pressure on the scarce services and resources inside Afghanistan, including in urban areas to which IDPs and returnees are attracted, and reduces the remittances from abroad, which help some families resisting external shocks. Despite international commitments and improvements in the government of Afghanistan's reintegration programme, many IDPs and returnees end up in need of humanitarian assistance. Also, as the government only controls part of the country, it cannot provide services to an estimated quarter of the population. There is thus a continued need for support for life-saving multi-sector interventions to assist conflict- and natural disaster-affected populations, as well as healthcare provision and trauma care, in areas not otherwise covered by government services.

The complexity of the conflict, the insecurity, the weak government agencies, the remoteness and inaccessibility of vulnerable communities, pose significant challenges to the provision of principled humanitarian aid. DG ECHO will thus support coordination, safety and security measures and air services as a pre-requisite for more effective aid delivery.

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<sup>48</sup> ACLED, The Year in Review

Afghanistan is also regularly affected by natural disasters, predominantly floods and drought. It will be important to maintain lifesaving multi-sector support capacity for affected populations.

## **Pakistan**

Pakistan continues to face multiple crises, namely 1) the 40 year Afghan refugee crisis, hosting the second largest refugee population worldwide<sup>49</sup>; 2) a severe malnutrition emergency and food insecurity, triggered by multi-annual drought and significantly exacerbated in 2019; 3) the impact of past and ongoing insurgency/counterinsurgency operations, including related internal displacement and returns. It also remains one of the world's most disaster-prone countries (e.g. floods, glacial lake outburst floods, earthquakes, heat waves). As a result, in 2020, DG ECHO's response will focus on the most acute humanitarian needs of: 1) People affected by drought/food security issues and malnutrition; 2) Afghan Refugees - Returnees from Afghanistan to Pakistan; 3) Pakistani affected by internal conflict, namely internally displaced people and returnees, for instance to tribal districts (former FATA); 4) People affected by other natural/climate induced disasters (e.g. flooding, GLOF earthquake). DG ECHO will continue to support Education in Emergencies for children most in need. In addition, DG ECHO will continue its Disaster Preparedness strategy in Sindh to extend a surge model of Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) that can be mainstreamed and replicated in other districts.

## **Iran**

Iran is hosting, in total, an estimated 4 million Afghan nationals, only 950 000 of them registered. Iran is also affected by its own internal challenges, namely recurrent natural disasters (e.g. in March 2019, Iran suffered severe floods, with 16.3 million people affected) and its recent severe economic downturn, as a result, inter alia, of the US stated policy of maximum pressure on Iran, implemented primarily through sanctions. This increasingly affects the civilian population, including the provision of basic services and employment opportunities for both Iranians and Afghans, and is expected to worsen in 2020. The import of essential medicines in Iran is a challenge, due to additional pressure of sanctions, despite humanitarian and medical exemptions, depriving many people of access to health treatments such as cancer, diabetes, etc. Iran's stance has been tolerant so far towards Afghan refugees, and the country provides those registered with access to education and to its health insurance schemes. However, those undocumented will remain extremely vulnerable and in need of assistance, including protection. Returns to Afghanistan have sharply increased in 2018, with almost 800 000 people returned voluntarily or deported. In 2019, 280 000 have returned as of 31 August. Sustained humanitarian aid will continue to be needed in Iran, engaging constructively with the Iranian authorities in response to the Afghan refugee crisis and assisting the most vulnerable refugees regardless of their status, in particular in the education sector. Support will also be key to assist affected populations in case of natural disaster.

## ***Central Asia***

DG ECHO's disaster risk reduction programme in Central Asia has come to an end in 2018. The follow-on support is now undertaken by DG DEVCO. Nonetheless DG ECHO will maintain a watching brief on the region, notably through its relationship with the regional Disaster Risk Reduction Centre in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

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<sup>49</sup> UNHCR

## ***South and South East Asia, and the Pacific***

### **Bangladesh**

In 2020, DG ECHO will continue to deliver basic life-saving humanitarian aid to the Rohingya refugees and the host community in Cox's Bazar. Since August 2017, following a crack-down by the Myanmar military against the Rohingya population in Rakhine State, more than 740 000 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh, which is now hosting almost one million Rohingya refugees. According to the 2019 Joint Response Plan for Bangladesh, USD 920 million are necessary to assist 1.2 million people (both refugee and host community) in need of humanitarian assistance. Conditions for a voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees to Myanmar are not in place and the crisis is likely to continue in the years to come.

The precarious living conditions of the Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, that range from challenging living conditions, protection issues linked to the absence of a protective legal status, combined with a constrictive policy environment, require a multi-sectoral humanitarian response founded on a comprehensive protection risk analysis. Refugees are fully reliant on humanitarian assistance for their survival. The most acute needs include food security and nutrition, health, WASH education, protection and shelter and settlements. DEVCO, ECHO and the EEAS will continue the dialogue in view to operationalize the EU Nexus approach in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is a highly disaster-prone country and particularly vulnerable to cyclones, floods and earthquakes. Hence, in 2020 DG ECHO will continue to contribute addressing the humanitarian needs generated by major natural disasters that overcome national response capacities. In parallel, DG ECHO will continue to fund DRR projects, focusing on urban earthquake preparedness in Dhaka and floods preparedness in the Cox Bazar and North Bangladesh, to build the resilience of this very vulnerable population.

### **Myanmar**

In 2020, DG ECHO will continue to address the needs of the most vulnerable people affected by violence and conflict. The focus will be on Rakhine, Kachin and Shan States, where - according to the 2019 Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan - almost one million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. A triple nexus approach will continue to be pursued in the country, following the nexus action plan that has been endorsed by the different services involved (ECHO, DEVCO, EEAS, FPI). Three sectors have been identified as priority; forced displacement, nutrition-livelihoods and natural disaster.

In Northern Rakhine State, the situation for Rohingya has significantly deteriorated over the last year, also due to the new conflict between the Myanmar army (Tatmadaw) and the Arakan Army (Rakhine ethnic armed group), which resulted in the displacement of more than 50 000 persons. For the estimated 600 000 Rohingya remaining in Northern Rakhine State, following the mass exodus in August 2017, the conditions remain extremely precarious with continued restrictions on movement combined with severe access constraints to basic services, widespread food insecurity and limited livelihood opportunities. In Central Rakhine, approximately 128 000 Rohingya still languish in confined camps - fully dependant of humanitarian aid - since the eruption of intercommunal violence in 2012 and a further 200 000 live confined in villages in surrounding areas.

In Kachin and Shan States, the conflict has displaced more than 100 000 people since 2011 and fighting continues to cause new displacements. A long-term solution to the conflict seems limited, even more in the perspective of the upcoming 2020 elections. Acute humanitarian needs remain unaddressed, notably in areas outside government control. Restricted access to

populations in need of humanitarian assistance is, also here, a major challenge for the relief response. Protection will be at the core of the entire operational response, with specific emphasis on: dignified solutions to displacement, respect for IHL, and stronger emphasis on prevention and response to GBV.

As for disaster preparedness, in 2020 DG ECHO will consider to bolster localized preparedness system to ensure adequate intervention in case of conflict and/or natural disaster; pilot shock responsive safety net programs in conflict affected/disaster prone areas, and consolidate and expand of urban preparedness initiative with a focus on protection, safety/security and earthquake.

### **Philippines**

The Philippines is prone to significant humanitarian crises prompted by both natural disasters and political instability, particularly in Mindanao. Mindanao has been enduring long-standing internal conflicts between the government armed forces and different non-state armed groups. According to OCHA, about 500 000 people (displaced, returnees and host) are presently in need of humanitarian assistance in Mindanao.

In 2020, DG ECHO humanitarian assistance in Mindanao will aim to reach the most vulnerable conflict-affected populations and those who are socially and culturally discriminated and/or receive little or no assistance. The most acute humanitarian needs continue to encompass food security, protection, early recovery, WASH, health, and education. Low scale conflict across Mindanao is expected to continue in the course of 2020, leading to recurrent forced displacements.

Regarding Disaster Preparedness, DG ECHO will prioritise the consolidation and dissemination of urban poor resilience building models, especially to Mindanao, as well the strengthen of existing government social safety net platforms for shock responsive early action.

### ***Central, South America and the Caribbean*** **Central America**

In the North Triangle of Central America and Mexico, the humanitarian impact of pervasive organised violence is extremely high on individuals and communities, with similar effects to those caused by conflicts (i.e. forced displacements, severe restrictions to access to basic services, widespread child recruitment, and confinement). Successive shocks over the last years, exacerbated by El Niño-related droughts, have seriously affected the food security situation in the region, with a sharp deterioration in 2019 (3.9 million people estimated acutely insecure, mainly in the Dry Corridor of Central America). Mounting socio-economic and political crises in the region, particularly in Nicaragua, contribute to worsen the living conditions of the affected populations, causing protection needs and displacement. At global level, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador are among the fifteen countries most affected by extreme events. Costa Rica, Panama and Mexico are also occasionally affected. Some 1.7 million people per year require temporary evacuation and/or emergency assistance due to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods, droughts, hurricanes. In 2019, the region has also experienced epidemic outbreaks. The combination of high exposure to hazards, high levels of poverty, acute food insecurity and extreme violence has eroded the coping capacities of local populations. Climate change and rapid unplanned urbanization further exacerbate vulnerability.

In 2020 DG ECHO will support protection and relief assistance for the most vulnerable victims of organised violence, including food assistance and short- to medium-term livelihood for people facing acute food insecurity, as well as disaster preparedness and resilience building, in full coordination with longer-term development actions. DG ECHO will also continue monitoring the epidemics situation, especially the Dengue outbreak, considered the deadliest one in Central America since decades. Population movements, in particular from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua, triggered by violence, poverty, food insecurity and social unrest, including mass mixed migration flows to Mexico, will be monitored and related humanitarian consequences addressed based on assessed needs.

## **South America**

The region is experiencing an unprecedented influx of migrants/refugees from Venezuela (between 4 and 5 million people), affecting in particular Colombia, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia and Chile. Most migrants live in an irregular situation, are exposed to protection threats and lack basic services (health, food, water, education). The response capacities of host countries are overwhelmed, triggering appeals for international support. South America is also prone to a variety of hazards, including floods, earthquakes and forest fires.

In 2020 DG ECHO will consolidate and extend the current response to the displacement crisis with particular focus on protection and life-saving operations for the most vulnerable groups (“caminantes”, unregistered migrants, trafficking and GBV survivors) in remote, underserved areas. In parallel, DG ECHO will continue supporting disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities aimed to strengthen local, national and regional response and coordination capacities, while promoting a civil protection approach to State response. Actions will aim at further strengthening the use of best practices for ownership and institutionalisation by the authorities, as well as at enhancing preparedness to respond to the humanitarian challenges posed by the regional migration crisis. To this end, close coordination with local, national, and regional institutions will be maintained, and synergies with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism will be pursued.

## **Colombia**

As the implementation of the 2016 peace agreement between the Government and the FARC, which was due to set an end to a decades-long internal conflict that displaced about 7 million, has been lagging behind, massive resurgence of violence by old and new armed groups against civilian populations has generated growing humanitarian needs over the past two years. In 2019, internal displacement has doubled compared to 2018 (200 000 - 250 000 new IDPs per year) and confinement of entire communities has soared by 1 000%. On average, one local leader is killed every two days. And the violence has recently spread to Ecuador and Venezuela. Colombian refugees (mainly in Ecuador) exceed 396 000. At the same time, the impact of the Venezuelan crisis in Colombia is enormous, with at least 1.2 million refugees in the country and a net daily influx of 5 000 people per day. Refugees and returnees are in dire need of assistance, and many settle in areas exposed to the combined effects of internal conflict and natural hazards.

In 2020, DG ECHO support in Colombia will focus on the most affected and under-assisted populations, in particular recently displaced people, and rural communities facing restrictions of movement and access to food and basic services. Specific attention will be given to most vulnerable groups - female-headed households, children, elderly, indigenous and Afro-Colombians. In the region, DG ECHO will provide assistance and protection to Colombians in need of international protection. DG ECHO will continue linking humanitarian initiatives



with peace-building programmes in conflict-affected areas, while seeking continued synergies with the Trust Fund set up by the EU in support of the peace process. The humanitarian needs of people fleeing Venezuela will be addressed, notably in border areas and reception cities, along with the needs of host communities, without discriminations based on status.

## **Venezuela**

The complex crisis in Venezuela continues to unfold, with severe consequences on the living conditions of the population, particularly in terms of access to food, health and education. Inside the country, malnutrition rates have exceeded the emergency threshold, national health services are severely affected, and around 3 million children are out of school due to lack of food, water, clothes, transport and unavailability of teachers. The situation is not projected to improve, due to the internal production crisis and the impact of US general sanctions. Venezuela has been declared a high risk country in 2019 in terms of food security, due to a significant deterioration of the current situation with potentially severe effects on agriculture and access to food. The deep economic crisis marked by hyperinflation has been reducing the capacities of the general population to buy food, while the planting season has been missed. Access to basic services such as water, fuel and electricity is steadily decreasing. Some 4 million people are estimated to have left the country.

In the framework of the "EU Compact for Venezuela", DG ECHO will maintain its humanitarian assistance in 2020 according to identified needs inside the country and within the region. Multi-sectoral intervention will focus on providing basic health services, protection, access to food and nutrition services, WASH and shelter support for people on the move. Education in Emergencies will be supported with a set of integrated activities aimed at making schools a protective environment. Target populations will be under-5 children and youth, pregnant and lactating women, elderly people, as well as indigenous populations in remote areas. In parallel, DG ECHO will keep supporting humanitarian coordination and leading donor coordination at country level, with a renewed effort in the framework of the ICG Humanitarian Working Group.

## **Caribbean**

As the devastating 2017 hurricane season showed once again, the Caribbean is highly vulnerable to natural hazards, notably hurricanes, storms, flooding and drought (the latter intensified by the El Niño phenomenon since 2015). DG ECHO will continue its support to disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction and the strengthening of resilience, building on the lessons learned and achievements of previous interventions, within a wider EU strategy linking relief to rehabilitation and development. Cooperation will continue with disaster management institutions at local, national and regional level to further promote institutionalization and sharing of best practices. DG ECHO will also stand ready to provide rapid humanitarian assistance in response to new sudden-onset disasters in the region. Continued synergies will be sought with EUCPM interventions. DG ECHO will furthermore support needs-based relief and protection to displaced populations in the Caribbean, notably refugees and migrants from Venezuela.

## **Haiti**

After the cumulative damage caused by hurricanes Matthew (2016) and Irma (2017) in large parts of the country, in 2018-2019 DG ECHO has intensified efforts to support disaster preparedness and build local rapid response capacities, while providing food and nutrition support to populations affected by drought-related food emergency (over 2.6 million Haitians were acutely food insecure in 2019, i.e. the double compared to 2018).

These interventions will be continued in 2020 based on updated food security and nutrition needs assessment, in full synergy with EU longer-term development actions, following the definition of a joint humanitarian-development intervention framework in Haiti. In parallel, DG ECHO will step up efforts in humanitarian monitoring and advocacy, in light of the worryingly deteriorating socio-economic and security situation in the country.

## **2.9. Response to sudden-onset emergencies**

Humanitarian aid operations to be financed by DG ECHO as worldwide intervention (outside the EU) aim to provide assistance in situations where there are fast onset humanitarian needs for example within the context of an epidemic outbreak, cyclones, floods, earthquake, landslides or any other sudden onset crisis that generates humanitarian need. This intervention includes a Humanitarian Implementation Plan designed to ensure rapid funding for response to a broad range of fast onset and first response needs: the Epidemics Tool which aims at preventing and mitigating epidemics outbreaks, the Small Scale Response Tool, the Acute Large Emergency Response Tool (ALERT), and a contribution to the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and Forecast-based Action (FbA). The implementation of these four worldwide intervention tools will contribute to the fulfilment of providing humanitarian assistance both for urgent response and disaster preparedness to populations affected by disasters and epidemics.

### *2.9.1. Epidemics*

Epidemics pose great risks to the health, lives and livelihoods of vulnerable people in developing countries. Communicable diseases that have appeared or reappeared in recent years have demonstrated their epidemic potential and their capacity to significantly exceed national resources and boundaries, causing major - even regional - emergencies. The burden of endemic and epidemic-prone diseases tends to increase in view of more complex emergencies related to natural disasters, climate change, and conflict. Such crises result in increased vulnerability to infectious diseases alongside reduced capacity of countries to respond to public health risks, especially if existing health systems were already poorly resourced. Vaccination coverage in developing countries is generally low and, thus, the risk of transmitting infection is increased. As health workers are particularly at risk of being contaminated, medical evacuation options need to be available to ensure a proper response. To reduce morbidity and mortality in disease outbreaks, early and effective action is required. Preparedness and response capacity are intimately linked as an effective response is only possible with an appropriate degree of preparedness.

### *2.9.2. Small Scale Response Tool*

While relatively limited numbers of people may be involved, small-scale disasters still have a serious negative impact on the lives and livelihoods of those affected. They can occur in remote or isolated areas not receiving support or assistance. The objective of the Small Scale Response Tool is to provide rapid relief assistance to victims of natural or man-made disasters where a small-scale response is sufficient to cover unmet needs and enhance preparedness.

### *2.9.3. Acute Large Emergency Response Tool (ALERT)*

Large-scale sudden onset natural disasters can have an enormous impact on the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable populations. In many countries, the effects of a disaster when combined with high levels of vulnerability and insufficient local capacities may be devastating and require urgent life-saving assistance. How quickly needs are addressed within the first days of a disaster is usually critical. The purpose of the Acute Large Emergency

Response Tool (ALERT) is to provide a first initial response to cover the immediate needs of the most vulnerable in the immediate aftermath of a large-scale natural or technological disaster.

#### *2.9.4. Support to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and Forecast-based Action (FbA)*

In most small-scale emergencies, emergency assistance is mostly provided at local or national level. Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies, supported by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), are often best placed to provide an immediate response as they are rooted in the local community and are able to mobilize community members as volunteers. DG ECHO will continue to support the IFRC's DREF through earmarked contributions. Funding is provided for relief activities as well as preparedness for imminent disasters in the context of small-scale emergencies.

### **2.10. Complementary and thematic activities**

#### *2.10.1. Policy Support toolbox*

Having access to the right mix of policy support tools and ensuring their optimal use is essential to create and maintain systemic, long-lasting impact on the humanitarian system in priority areas that are important for DG ECHO and for the humanitarian system as a whole.

In a context of increasingly complex humanitarian challenges and scarce resources, the capacity of humanitarian actors to respond to ever-growing needs is often stretched to the limit. Addressing this issue is not only a question of increasing financial resources, but also of improving tools, knowledge, coordination and preparedness. In line with the European Consensus on Humanitarian aid “(...) *supporting the development of the collective global capacity to respond to humanitarian crises is one the fundamental tenants of our [EU] approach*”.

Last, the development and roll-out of innovative and well-informed policies also ensure that DG ECHO, through its operational activities, provides responses that meet the highest international standards in terms of quality and timeliness.

Through the policy support toolbox DG ECHO has championed numerous policy initiatives, contributed to the development and building of capacity and strengthened the ability of our partners to deliver.

DG ECHO will continue to adapt its Policy Support Toolbox to best serve its purpose.

#### *2.10.2. Visibility, information and communication*

In 2020, DG ECHO aims to increase awareness, understanding of and support for humanitarian issues, especially in Europe and in third countries where the Union is funding major humanitarian operations, by organising high impact public awareness, information and communication actions. These also serve to highlight the partnership between DG ECHO, on behalf of the Commission, and its partners in delivering relief assistance to people affected by humanitarian crises. Communication actions in 2020 will also contribute, where appropriate, to the corporate communication of the Commission, in particular regarding the priorities of the incoming Commission President and the EU's role in the world, as well as to the corporate communication cluster "An EU that Protects" and “EU in the World”.

DG ECHO's communication approach for humanitarian aid has been developed to take into account the specificity of humanitarian aid, with a view to preserving a distinct identity for principled, needs-based humanitarian action, in line with the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid. The European Union is one of the world's leading humanitarian aid donors

and plays an important role in shaping the global humanitarian landscape. Providing transparent and accountable information about the impact of EU humanitarian aid and disaster response and the underlying values to stakeholders in the wider sense is crucial to underpinning and mobilising continued support and relief assistance. Joint communication actions with the European Commission's humanitarian partners are integral to this approach. Operational activities funded by DG ECHO will thus fully integrate this imperative. Communicating the EU's response to sudden onset, ongoing and protracted crises remains at the core of communication planning, together with awareness-raising on more strategic themes e.g. international humanitarian law, the humanitarian principles and 'forgotten crises'. Communication channels will include, inter alia, traditional print media, digital and social media products, journalist visits, audio-visual programmes and media partnerships, and strategic actions with humanitarian partners on key campaigning issues.

### **3. DELIVERY, COORDINATION AND CONTROL OF HUMANITARIAN AID**

#### **3.1. Ways and means of delivering aid**

##### *3.1.1. Field Network*

The field network of 50 field offices in 40 countries is considered as one of DG ECHO's main key strengths and a distinctive feature of the Commission's humanitarian aid policy. Composed of both international and local experts, it contributes decisively to making the European Union a reference donor, whose strong position in international fora is based on first-hand operational knowledge. The Field Network enables to improve the quality of humanitarian aid to beneficiaries by ensuring coordination with stakeholders, including the EU Delegations, EU Member States and international organisations. The Field Network facilitates the development of a strengthened EU reaction capacity in situations of sudden crises, increasingly building on the synergies with Civil Protection. The basic role of DG ECHO's field network is to enhance the effectiveness and appropriateness of the EU's humanitarian action by:

- Contributing to the identification and evaluation of humanitarian needs in the field and their possible evolution;
- Monitoring of humanitarian aid projects funded by the Union and provision of technical advice on needs assessment, analysis of proposals, and lessons learned;
- Contributing to ensure a coherent roll-out of policy guidelines guaranteeing a consistent level of quality for Union-funded humanitarian aid projects;
- Representing the Commission in relevant humanitarian aid clusters/fora, to advocate with relevant stakeholders at local/regional/global level, within the framework defined by Headquarters and to ensure appropriate communication and visibility actions,

while keeping the office structures flexible and agile, adapted to needs and acting through an appropriate resource, logistics and security management separate from the EU Delegations management.

The field network is therefore of crucial importance in helping to enhance the impact of humanitarian aid to beneficiaries and in improving DG ECHO's ability, on behalf of the Commission, to determine priorities for the use of this aid.

##### *3.1.2. Relations with partners*

DG ECHO implements its humanitarian aid mandate by funding projects proposed by more than 200 partners. They include European non-governmental organisations, United Nations agencies, other international organisations, such as the International Committee of the Red

Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and specialised agencies from the EU Member States. With some of these organisations (i.e. who jointly account to more than half of the annual humanitarian budget) annual strategic dialogues are organised to discuss major issues of shared interest.

Having a diverse range of partners is important, as it allows comprehensive coverage of an ever-growing list of needs in different parts of the world and in increasingly complex situations. Grants and contributions are decided on the basis of the best proposals covering the needs of those most vulnerable. Partner organisations make a commitment to highlight the origin of EU aid.

### *3.1.3. Pilot Programmatic Partnership*

At the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016, the world's major humanitarian donors and aid organisations signed the Grand Bargain. Its main objective is to improve the way humanitarian aid is delivered by making it more effective and efficient, thereby reaching more people in need. Based on Grand Bargain shared commitments, DG ECHO is launching pilot Programmatic Partnerships with a few partners. Specific objectives for these partnerships will be developed jointly, including reducing the administrative burden, increasing the proportion of funding directly available to assist people affected by crisis, and promoting greater funding predictability and more flexibility in the humanitarian response.

## **3.2. Coordination and exchange of information**

Various mechanisms are in place to ensure coordination and exchange of information on crisis response and humanitarian aid activities in general, including:

- Exchange of information on overall operational strategies and on responses to specific crisis situations features regularly on the agendas of the Council Working Group on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) attended by Member States;
- Crisis reports are shared with Member States. They contribute to the development of shared assessment and understanding on the situation on the ground and thus contribute to the overall coordination of the humanitarian response by the EU and its Member States;
- Exchanges with partners both at headquarters and at the field take place regularly;
- EDRIS (European Disaster Response Information System) collects data on DG ECHO and Member States' humanitarian aid activities;
- The Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) supports a coordinated and quick response to disasters. The ERCC is a coordination hub supporting humanitarian aid and civil protection activities, facilitating a coherent European response during emergencies. It also supports other EU services and the Member States in crisis situations;
- At international level, DG ECHO continues to participate in well-established *fora* such as the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD), the ICRC Donor Support Group (DSG), the OCHA Donor Support Group (ODSG), and the IFRC Donor Advisory Group (DAG); DG ECHO will be co-chairing the GHD initiative until June 2020;
- Regular exchanges of views on the EU's response to crises take place in the European Parliament (in particular in the DEVE Committee);

- Ad hoc crisis coordination meetings of the EU services and broader inter-service meetings aimed at exchanging information (e.g. ARGUS meetings, Crisis Platform meetings organised by the EEAS);
- Regular information exchange and upstream coordination in relation to crisis response interventions under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) to ensure optimal deployment of DG ECHO resources and coherence of interventions;
- Regular evaluations with a geographical focus, each including a suitable thematic/sector aspect, with the aim to cover all regions where DG ECHO operates and all humanitarian themes and sectors every 5 years. The results of all these are posted on DG ECHO's website.

### **3.3. Monitoring of use of funds**

Correct implementation of EU-funded operations is ensured by several layers of checks and monitoring, at internal level and by external actors.

#### *3.3.1. Evaluation*

Evaluation is a key tool for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of EU initiatives. DG ECHO's evaluation programme covers five years and provides comprehensive evaluation coverage of DG ECHO's activities (humanitarian aid and civil protection) over the programme period.

In 2019, the following evaluation related projects have been or will be completed, and the reports made available on DG ECHO's evaluation webpage on Europa<sup>50</sup>:

- Evaluation of the European Union's humanitarian response to the refugee crisis in Turkey;
- Evaluation of the EU's humanitarian interventions in Afghanistan, including its partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council;
- Evaluation of the European Union's humanitarian interventions in Central Africa region, including coordination;
- Evaluation of the European Union's humanitarian interventions in Iraq, including protection.

The following evaluation is currently being implemented and will be completed in 2020:

- Evaluation of the European Union's humanitarian assistance in Ukraine, 2014-2018.

The following evaluations are currently about to be launched and completed in 2020:

- Evaluation of the EU humanitarian response to the Rohingya refugee crisis in Myanmar and Bangladesh, 2017-2019;
- Evaluation of the European Union's implementation of the DG ECHO Thematic Policy Document Gender: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance of July 2013, (2014-2018);
- Evaluation of the European Union's humanitarian assistance in Syria, 2015-2018.

<sup>50</sup>

[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding-evaluations/evaluations\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding-evaluations/evaluations_en)

### 3.3.2. *Controls performed by DG ECHO*

The main aspects of the control environment developed by DG ECHO include supervision and monitoring procedures and ex-ante/ex-post controls:

- Strict selection and quality control mechanisms of partners under the Framework Partnership Agreement that DG ECHO, on behalf of the Commission, signs with NGOs and international organisations defining the requirements for financial credentials and expertise of partners;
- Assessment of needs of crisis-affected people through a worldwide network of DG ECHO's field experts;
- Appraisal of project proposals and on the spot project monitoring through a worldwide network of DG ECHO's field experts;
- Regular field visits to project sites by geographical desks, technical experts, external auditors, and DG ECHO managers;
- Obligation for partners to produce reports after the end of each operation to justify their expenses. A thorough analysis of these reports, with checks on eligible expenditure, are carried out by DG ECHO's operational and financial desk officers;
- Audits of the legality and regularity of expenditures claimed, of management and control systems, and of compliance with the requirements set in the FPA are performed by external auditors contracted by DG ECHO.

The monitoring mechanisms listed above should not be seen in isolation. Each one of them contributes to the aim of providing assurance on the legality of transactions and their general compliance with relevant rules and obligations.

Furthermore, within the European Commission, controls are carried out by the Internal Audit Service, whose mission is to give recommendations, opinions and advice with respect to internal control systems of European Commission's departments and EU agencies.

### 3.3.3. *Additional controls*

DG ECHO's operations and financial management are also subject to external controls. The European Court of Auditors audits the EU finances and, increasingly, the performance of activities. Observations and recommendations are published in the Courts' annual and special reports, which are transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council.

Furthermore, specialised committees of the Budget Authority (European Parliament and Council) exercise control over financial management of the European Commission services: in this context, the Budgetary Control Committee of the EP organises annual hearings with a number of Commissioners in the framework of the procedure for the discharge of the European Commission's annual accounts.

Annexes:

- Annex I: Index for Risk Management – INFORM & Crisis Assessment (September 2019)
- Annex II: Crisis Assessment Index Rank 2019
- Annex III: Summary of Forgotten Crises Assessment 2019-2020

Annex I: Index for Risk Management - - INFORM (September 2019)



COUNTRY	ISO3	Natural	Human	HAZARD & EXPOSURE	Socio-Economic Vulnerability	Vulnerable Groups	VULNERABILITY	Institutional	Infrastructure	LACK OF COPING CAPACITY	INFORM RISK	RISK CLASS	Rank
		(0-10)	(0-10)	(0-10)	(0-10)	(0-10)	(0-10)	(0-10)	(0-10)	(0-10)	(0-10)	(Very Low-Very High)	(1-191)
Afghanistan	AFG	6,4	10,0	8,8	7,6	8,7	8,2	7,2	7,1	7,2	8,0	Very High	5
Albania	ALB	6,3	0,1	3,8	2,2	0,9	1,6	5,6	2,5	4,2	2,9	Low	123
Algeria	DZA	5,0	5,3	5,2	2,3	3,4	2,9	5,0	3,8	4,4	4,0	Medium	82
Angola	AGO	3,0	4,7	3,9	5,1	4,9	5,0	6,5	7,7	7,1	5,2	High	38
Antigua and Barbuda	ATG	3,8	0,0	2,1	2,2	1,1	1,7	5,2	2,0	3,8	2,4	Low	139
Argentina	ARG	4,0	1,5	2,8	1,9	1,8	1,9	4,6	2,2	3,5	2,7	Low	128
Armenia	ARM	4,3	3,1	3,7	2,2	3,0	2,6	6,7	2,0	4,8	3,6	Medium	99
Australia	AUS	4,9	0,1	2,8	0,5	3,6	2,2	2,3	1,8	2,1	2,3	Low	142
Austria	AUT	2,3	0,0	1,2	0,3	4,4	2,6	2,2	0,5	1,4	1,6	Very Low	169
Azerbaijan	AZE	4,9	5,0	5,0	2,2	5,6	4,1	6,4	2,3	4,7	4,6	Medium	61
Bahamas	BHS	3,5	0,0	1,9	2,1	1,4	1,8	3,7	2,6	3,2	2,2	Low	146
Bahrain	BHR	0,9	0,2	0,6	1,3	0,9	1,1	4,7	1,3	3,2	1,3	Very Low	180
Bangladesh	BGD	8,2	6,9	7,6	5,1	6,2	5,7	5,0	5,1	5,1	6,0	High	22
Barbados	BRB	3,7	0,0	2,0	2,2	0,5	1,4	3,1	1,8	2,5	1,9	Very Low	156
Belarus	BLR	2,3	1,9	2,1	1,2	1,2	1,2	4,3	1,2	2,9	1,9	Very Low	156
Belgium	BEL	1,8	2,4	2,1	0,3	3,2	1,9	2,6	0,9	1,8	1,9	Very Low	156



Belize	BLZ	5,3	0,1	3,1	3,7	2,5	3,1	6,3	3,8	5,2	3,7	Medium	96
Benin	BEN	2,7	2,0	2,4	6,7	3,0	5,1	5,9	7,6	6,8	4,4	Medium	70
Bhutan	BTN	3,6	0,1	2,0	5,1	1,2	3,4	4,1	4,7	4,4	3,1	Low	112
Bolivia	BOL	4,4	4,1	4,3	4,7	2,0	3,5	6,1	4,4	5,3	4,3	Medium	71
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BIH	4,1	1,6	2,9	2,6	4,6	3,7	6,1	2,5	4,5	3,6	Medium	99
Botswana	BWA	2,9	1,2	2,1	3,6	3,1	3,4	4,8	4,4	4,6	3,2	Low	110
Brazil	BRA	4,0	7,0	5,7	3,3	3,3	3,3	5,2	3,2	4,3	4,3	Medium	71
Brunei Darussalam	BRN	2,5	0,0	1,3	1,2	0,5	0,9	4,6	2,1	3,5	1,6	Very Low	169
Bulgaria	BGR	3,6	0,3	2,1	1,8	2,7	2,3	4,2	1,7	3,0	2,4	Low	139
Burkina Faso	BFA	3,4	3,9	3,7	6,8	4,5	5,8	4,7	8,0	6,6	5,2	High	38
Burundi	BDI	3,7	6,3	5,1	7,0	6,2	6,6	6,3	7,3	6,8	6,1	High	21
Cabo Verde	CPV	2,4	0,0	1,3	5,1	0,9	3,3	4,0	3,7	3,9	2,6	Low	131
Cambodia	KHM	5,8	3,2	4,6	5,7	1,6	3,9	7,0	5,3	6,2	4,8	Medium	55
Cameroon	CMR	3,5	6,8	5,4	6,0	7,2	6,6	4,9	6,9	6,0	6,0	High	22
Canada	CAN	4,7	0,1	2,7	0,5	3,8	2,3	2,2	2,3	2,3	2,4	Low	139
Central African Republic	CAF	2,8	10,0	8,1	9,0	9,0	9,0	8,0	9,2	8,7	8,6	Very High	2
Chad	TCD	4,0	7,0	5,7	7,5	7,6	7,6	8,0	9,6	8,9	7,3	Very High	6
Chile	CHL	6,2	2,7	4,7	1,8	2,2	2,0	3,3	2,6	3,0	3,0	Low	119
China	CHN	7,6	6,3	7,0	2,7	3,4	3,1	3,9	3,3	3,6	4,3	Medium	71
Colombia	COL	6,7	7,0	6,9	3,6	7,7	6,0	4,4	3,2	3,8	5,4	High	30
Comoros	COM	2,7	0,3	1,6	6,1	4,5	5,4	7,8	5,9	7,0	3,9	Medium	86
Congo	COG	3,7	3,5	3,6	5,5	6,5	6,0	7,8	7,0	7,4	5,4	High	30
Congo DR	COD	4,5	7,0	5,9	6,7	7,9	7,3	7,9	8,2	8,1	7,0	Very High	8
Costa Rica	CRI	6,1	0,1	3,7	2,4	3,4	2,9	3,0	2,2	2,6	3,0	Low	119
Côte d'Ivoire	CIV	3,6	6,4	5,2	6,1	5,7	5,9	7,2	6,7	7,0	6,0	High	22
Croatia	HRV	4,8	0,1	2,8	1,3	0,9	1,1	4,5	1,4	3,1	2,1	Low	150
Cuba	CUB	5,8	2,3	4,3	3,4	2,9	3,2	4,0	2,0	3,1	3,5	Medium	102

Cyprus	CYP	4,3	0,1	2,5	0,8	6,5	4,2	3,7	1,3	2,6	3,0	Low	119
Czech Republic	CZE	1,8	0,1	1,0	0,4	1,4	0,9	3,1	1,0	2,1	1,2	Very Low	182
Denmark	DNK	1,2	0,0	0,6	0,2	3,2	1,8	2,0	0,5	1,3	1,1	Very Low	185
Djibouti	DJI	5,8	1,5	4,0	6,1	5,1	5,6	6,3	6,5	6,4	5,2	High	38
Dominica	DMA	5,1	0,0	2,9	4,0	3,4	3,7	4,9	3,3	4,1	3,5	Medium	102
Dominican Republic	DOM	6,6	3,6	5,3	3,8	0,8	2,4	5,5	3,2	4,4	3,8	Medium	91
Ecuador	ECU	6,8	0,5	4,3	3,2	4,0	3,6	4,6	3,4	4,0	4,0	Medium	82
Egypt	EGY	5,1	9,0	7,5	3,5	4,2	3,9	5,3	3,8	4,6	5,1	High	46
El Salvador	SLV	6,4	3,9	5,3	4,0	1,1	2,7	5,7	3,2	4,6	4,0	Medium	82
Equatorial Guinea	GNQ	2,8	2,9	2,9	4,2	2,0	3,2	8,2	6,4	7,4	4,1	Medium	77
Eritrea	ERI	4,0	3,2	3,6	6,2	3,0	4,8	8,1	7,6	7,9	5,1	High	46
Estonia	EST	1,0	0,0	0,5	0,8	1,0	0,9	2,8	0,9	1,9	0,9	Very Low	187
Eswatini	SWZ	2,6	2,3	2,5	5,7	3,0	4,5	5,3	5,4	5,4	3,9	Medium	86
Ethiopia	ETH	4,3	9,0	7,3	6,4	6,8	6,6	4,7	8,2	6,8	6,9	Very High	10
Fiji	FJI	3,9	0,1	2,2	3,2	3,5	3,4	2,5	3,7	3,1	2,9	Low	123
Finland	FIN	0,3	0,0	0,2	0,2	2,8	1,6	1,8	0,9	1,4	0,8	Very Low	190
France	FRA	3,6	0,6	2,2	0,4	4,6	2,8	2,8	1,0	1,9	2,3	Low	142
Gabon	GAB	2,5	4,3	3,5	4,2	2,4	3,4	6,8	5,2	6,1	4,2	Medium	75
Gambia	GMB	3,0	1,6	2,3	7,2	2,7	5,4	4,7	6,3	5,6	4,1	Medium	77
Georgia	GEO	4,5	3,3	3,9	2,9	6,2	4,8	4,4	1,8	3,2	3,9	Medium	86
Germany	DEU	2,4	0,6	1,5	0,4	5,5	3,4	2,3	0,6	1,5	2,0	Low	153
Ghana	GHA	3,5	1,3	2,5	5,4	3,1	4,3	4,5	5,7	5,1	3,8	Medium	91
Greece	GRC	6,0	2,0	4,3	1,0	4,2	2,8	3,7	1,0	2,5	3,1	Low	112
Grenada	GRD	1,7	0,0	0,9	2,0	1,1	1,6	4,9	2,7	3,9	1,8	Very Low	164
Guatemala	GTM	6,6	4,8	5,8	5,3	6,3	5,8	6,2	4,6	5,5	5,7	High	26
Guinea	GIN	3,8	4,1	4,0	5,4	3,3	4,4	6,1	8,4	7,4	5,1	High	46
Guinea-Bissau	GNB	2,5	1,6	2,1	6,7	4,2	5,6	8,2	7,5	7,9	4,5	Medium	66

Guyana	GUY	3,8	0,7	2,4	4,6	1,6	3,2	6,0	4,4	5,3	3,4	Low	105
Haiti	HTI	6,9	5,3	6,2	7,4	5,0	6,3	7,7	6,8	7,3	6,6	Very High	14
Honduras	HND	6,4	3,8	5,2	5,6	5,1	5,4	5,9	4,3	5,2	5,3	High	34
Hungary	HUN	3,6	0,1	2,0	1,3	1,7	1,5	3,1	1,1	2,2	1,9	Very Low	156
Iceland	ISL	2,3	0,0	1,2	0,2	1,3	0,8	2,3	1,5	1,9	1,2	Very Low	182
India	IND	7,6	7,0	7,3	4,6	5,2	4,9	3,6	4,9	4,3	5,4	High	30
Indonesia	IDN	7,7	6,6	7,2	3,5	2,8	3,2	4,5	4,4	4,5	4,7	Medium	57
Iran	IRN	6,7	6,1	6,4	2,3	6,8	4,9	5,4	3,3	4,4	5,2	High	38
Iraq	IRQ	5,3	10,0	8,6	4,1	7,3	5,9	8,2	4,6	6,8	7,0	Very High	8
Ireland	IRL	2,4	0,0	1,3	0,4	2,2	1,3	2,6	1,2	1,9	1,5	Very Low	175
Israel	ISR	4,6	4,6	4,6	0,6	3,2	2,0	3,1	0,9	2,1	2,7	Low	128
Italy	ITA	5,2	0,6	3,2	0,7	4,0	2,5	3,4	0,8	2,2	2,6	Low	131
Jamaica	JAM	5,3	1,5	3,6	3,7	0,7	2,3	4,1	3,1	3,6	3,1	Low	112
Japan	JPN	8,1	0,9	5,6	0,4	2,5	1,5	2,1	0,8	1,5	2,3	Low	142
Jordan	JOR	4,1	2,9	3,5	4,0	7,8	6,3	5,6	2,7	4,3	4,6	Medium	61
Kazakhstan	KAZ	4,0	0,4	2,4	1,1	0,3	0,7	4,9	2,4	3,8	1,9	Very Low	156
Kenya	KEN	5,0	6,5	5,8	5,5	6,4	6,0	5,2	7,1	6,2	6,0	High	22
Kiribati	KIR	3,9	0,0	2,2	5,6	2,5	4,2	5,5	5,1	5,3	3,7	Medium	96
Korea DPR	PRK	5,1	4,3	4,7	5,8	3,3	4,7	8,5	3,0	6,5	5,2	High	38
Korea Republic of	KOR	5,9	1,8	4,1	0,4	2,1	1,3	2,6	0,9	1,8	2,1	Low	150
Kuwait	KWT	1,5	0,5	1,0	1,9	1,1	1,5	5,6	1,2	3,7	1,8	Very Low	164
Kyrgyzstan	KGZ	5,2	4,7	5,0	4,0	1,0	2,6	5,3	3,5	4,5	3,9	Medium	86
Lao PDR	LAO	4,8	2,7	3,8	5,2	2,5	4,0	6,3	5,3	5,8	4,5	Medium	66
Latvia	LVA	2,1	0,1	1,2	1,3	1,0	1,2	3,7	1,4	2,6	1,6	Very Low	169
Lebanon	LBN	5,3	5,5	5,4	3,6	7,8	6,1	5,7	2,4	4,2	5,2	High	38
Lesotho	LSO	2,2	2,1	2,2	6,8	2,5	5,0	7,4	6,2	6,8	4,2	Medium	75
Liberia	LBR	3,9	2,2	3,1	7,6	4,3	6,2	7,3	7,9	7,6	5,3	High	34

Libya	LBY	3,7	10,0	8,2	2,6	5,8	4,4	8,4	3,8	6,7	6,2	High	19
Liechtenstein	LIE	1,3	0,0	0,7	0,0	1,6	0,8	1,5	0,7	1,1	0,9	Very Low	187
Lithuania	LTU	1,8	0,0	0,9	1,1	1,2	1,2	3,6	1,0	2,4	1,4	Very Low	177
Luxembourg	LUX	0,8	0,0	0,4	0,5	2,0	1,3	1,8	0,7	1,3	0,9	Very Low	187
Madagascar	MDG	6,0	0,6	3,8	6,1	3,9	5,1	6,1	8,1	7,2	5,2	High	38
Malawi	MWI	4,4	1,0	2,9	7,0	5,0	6,1	5,3	7,7	6,7	4,9	Medium	54
Malaysia	MYS	4,8	2,4	3,7	2,0	4,0	3,1	3,5	2,6	3,1	3,3	Low	108
Maldives	MDV	3,3	0,2	1,9	2,9	0,8	1,9	6,1	1,5	4,2	2,5	Low	134
Mali	MLI	3,7	8,0	6,3	7,0	5,1	6,1	5,9	7,3	6,7	6,4	High	15
Malta	MLT	2,5	0,0	1,3	0,8	3,2	2,1	3,8	0,7	2,4	1,9	Very Low	156
Marshall Islands	MHL	3,5	0,0	1,9	5,3	2,2	3,9	7,7	4,2	6,3	3,6	Medium	99
Mauritania	MRT	5,5	3,5	4,6	5,9	6,4	6,2	5,9	7,1	6,5	5,7	High	26
Mauritius	MUS	3,8	0,1	2,1	2,2	0,6	1,4	3,7	2,0	2,9	2,0	Low	153
Mexico	MEX	6,8	9,0	8,1	3,3	4,1	3,7	5,7	3,0	4,5	5,1	High	46
Micronesia	FSM	4,2	0,0	2,3	5,6	3,5	4,6	5,4	4,9	5,2	3,8	Medium	91
Moldova Republic of	MDA	4,1	1,7	3,0	2,7	1,2	2,0	6,3	2,4	4,6	3,0	Low	119
Mongolia	MNG	2,8	0,2	1,6	4,2	1,6	3,0	5,5	4,4	5,0	2,9	Low	123
Montenegro	MNE	4,2	0,1	2,4	1,7	1,1	1,4	4,6	1,8	3,3	2,2	Low	146
Morocco	MAR	4,8	4,1	4,5	4,6	1,7	3,3	5,6	3,9	4,8	4,1	Medium	77
Mozambique	MOZ	6,0	4,6	5,3	7,6	5,8	6,8	4,7	8,1	6,7	6,2	High	19
Myanmar	MMR	7,8	7,0	7,4	5,3	5,3	5,3	7,1	5,4	6,3	6,3	High	17
Namibia	NAM	4,1	0,4	2,4	5,7	3,5	4,7	4,5	5,5	5,0	3,8	Medium	91
Nauru	NRU	3,0	0,0	1,6	5,2	4,0	4,6	7,0	3,1	5,4	3,4	Low	105
Nepal	NPL	5,7	5,6	5,7	5,9	3,3	4,7	6,2	5,3	5,8	5,4	High	30
Netherlands	NLD	2,0	0,0	1,0	0,2	3,7	2,1	1,7	0,8	1,3	1,4	Very Low	177
New Zealand	NZL	4,5	0,0	2,5	0,5	1,2	0,9	2,0	1,5	1,8	1,6	Very Low	169
Nicaragua	NIC	6,6	8,0	7,4	5,1	1,7	3,6	5,8	4,6	5,2	5,2	High	38

Niger	NER	4,3	6,8	5,7	7,4	6,1	6,8	5,9	8,9	7,7	6,7	Very High	13
Nigeria	NGA	3,8	10,0	8,3	5,6	6,6	6,1	5,0	7,6	6,5	6,9	Very High	10
North Macedonia	MKD	3,6	1,8	2,7	2,3	1,0	1,7	4,7	2,3	3,6	2,5	Low	134
Norway	NOR	0,5	0,0	0,3	0,2	3,6	2,1	1,8	1,3	1,6	1,0	Very Low	186
Oman	OMN	5,2	0,1	3,0	1,7	1,0	1,4	4,7	2,2	3,6	2,5	Low	134
Pakistan	PAK	7,4	8,0	7,7	5,4	6,2	5,8	5,3	5,9	5,6	6,3	High	17
Palau	PLW	3,2	0,0	1,7	3,1	1,0	2,1	5,7	2,2	4,2	2,5	Low	134
Palestine	PSE	3,0	7,0	5,3	4,3	7,8	6,4	5,8	1,1	3,8	5,1	High	46
Panama	PAN	6,2	0,1	3,8	2,7	2,9	2,8	5,0	3,1	4,1	3,5	Medium	102
Papua New Guinea	PNG	6,6	3,2	5,1	5,7	4,5	5,1	6,8	7,8	7,3	5,7	High	26
Paraguay	PRY	2,6	2,2	2,4	3,8	3,1	3,5	5,3	3,4	4,4	3,3	Low	108
Peru	PER	7,0	2,0	5,0	3,6	4,8	4,2	4,8	4,1	4,5	4,6	Medium	61
Philippines	PHL	8,4	7,0	7,8	4,0	5,4	4,7	4,7	3,4	4,1	5,3	High	34
Poland	POL	2,1	0,1	1,2	0,8	2,0	1,4	4,1	1,3	2,8	1,7	Very Low	168
Portugal	PRT	3,3	0,0	1,8	1,1	1,1	1,1	2,8	1,0	1,9	1,6	Very Low	169
Qatar	QAT	1,5	0,1	0,8	1,2	0,7	1,0	4,2	1,3	2,9	1,3	Very Low	180
Romania	ROU	4,1	2,8	3,5	1,9	1,5	1,7	4,6	2,3	3,5	2,8	Low	127
Russian Federation	RUS	5,6	6,8	6,2	1,7	2,9	2,3	6,2	2,3	4,5	4,0	Medium	82
Rwanda	RWA	3,7	3,0	3,4	6,4	5,8	6,1	3,8	6,2	5,1	4,7	Medium	57
Saint Kitts and Nevis	KNA	2,9	0,0	1,6	1,8	1,1	1,5	4,0	1,8	3,0	1,9	Very Low	156
Saint Lucia	LCA	2,6	0,0	1,4	2,8	1,2	2,0	4,9	2,7	3,9	2,2	Low	146
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	VCT	2,7	0,0	1,4	2,7	0,5	1,7	4,4	2,3	3,4	2,0	Low	153
Samoa	WSM	3,5	0,0	1,9	5,0	0,6	3,1	4,2	3,9	4,1	2,9	Low	123
Sao Tome and Principe	STP	1,1	0,0	0,6	5,9	1,2	3,9	6,0	4,7	5,4	2,3	Low	142
Saudi Arabia	SAU	2,9	4,6	3,8	1,2	1,1	1,2	4,8	2,1	3,6	2,5	Low	134
Senegal	SEN	4,7	3,6	4,2	6,3	3,6	5,1	5,2	6,2	5,7	5,0	High	52
Serbia	SRB	4,4	2,0	3,3	1,8	3,0	2,4	5,2	2,0	3,8	3,1	Low	112

Seychelles	SYC	2,9	0,0	1,6	2,6	0,7	1,7	4,1	2,4	3,3	2,1	Low	150
Sierra Leone	SLE	3,7	3,8	3,8	7,2	3,5	5,7	5,4	8,1	7,0	5,3	High	34
Singapore	SGP	0,9	0,1	0,5	0,2	0,3	0,3	1,2	0,9	1,1	0,5	Very Low	191
Slovakia	SVK	2,9	0,1	1,6	0,9	0,9	0,9	3,8	1,3	2,6	1,6	Very Low	169
Slovenia	SVN	3,5	0,0	1,9	0,2	1,0	0,6	2,2	1,1	1,7	1,2	Very Low	182
Solomon Islands	SLB	5,8	1,1	3,8	6,0	1,4	4,1	6,5	6,6	6,6	4,7	Medium	57
Somalia	SOM	6,8	10,0	8,9	9,0	9,1	9,1	9,2	8,4	8,8	8,9	Very High	1
South Africa	ZAF	4,9	6,6	5,8	4,2	5,0	4,6	4,5	3,9	4,2	4,8	Medium	55
South Sudan	SSD	3,9	8,0	6,4	8,8	8,7	8,8	9,4	9,5	9,5	8,1	Very High	3
Spain	ESP	4,2	1,1	2,8	0,6	3,3	2,1	2,9	0,6	1,8	2,2	Low	146
Sri Lanka	LKA	5,1	2,9	4,1	2,6	3,4	3,0	4,7	3,3	4,0	3,7	Medium	96
Sudan	SDN	4,4	9,0	7,3	5,7	7,7	6,8	6,5	6,9	6,7	6,9	Very High	10
Suriname	SUR	3,9	0,1	2,2	3,9	1,4	2,7	6,0	4,0	5,1	3,1	Low	112
Sweden	SWE	1,2	0,1	0,7	0,3	5,2	3,1	2,0	0,9	1,5	1,5	Very Low	175
Switzerland	CHE	2,2	0,1	1,2	0,3	4,1	2,4	1,1	0,6	0,9	1,4	Very Low	177
Syria	SYR	5,7	10,0	8,7	7,5	8,0	7,8	6,7	4,4	5,7	7,3	Very High	6
Tajikistan	TJK	5,8	4,6	5,2	4,5	2,1	3,4	6,0	3,9	5,0	4,5	Medium	66
Tanzania	TZA	5,0	4,6	4,8	5,8	5,9	5,9	5,0	7,2	6,2	5,6	High	29
Thailand	THA	6,2	4,8	5,5	2,3	3,9	3,1	5,0	2,7	3,9	4,1	Medium	77
Timor-Leste	TLS	4,5	2,1	3,4	5,0	3,2	4,2	6,6	5,8	6,2	4,5	Medium	66
Togo	TGO	2,9	2,1	2,5	6,4	3,7	5,2	8,2	7,0	7,7	4,6	Medium	61
Tonga	TON	5,2	0,0	3,0	5,4	3,5	4,5	5,6	2,9	4,4	3,9	Medium	86
Trinidad and Tobago	TTO	3,0	0,6	1,9	2,3	3,6	3,0	4,8	1,4	3,3	2,7	Low	128
Tunisia	TUN	4,6	2,7	3,7	2,7	0,8	1,8	5,9	3,2	4,7	3,2	Low	110
Turkey	TUR	6,2	9,0	7,9	2,3	6,8	4,9	3,8	2,6	3,2	5,0	High	52
Turkmenistan	TKM	3,7	0,8	2,4	1,6	0,8	1,2	7,7	2,9	5,8	2,6	Low	131
Tuvalu	TUV	2,9	0,0	1,6	5,1	2,0	3,7	6,5	3,4	5,1	3,1	Low	112

Uganda	UGA	4,1	6,5	5,4	6,4	7,4	6,9	6,8	7,5	7,2	6,4	High	15
Ukraine	UKR	3,3	7,0	5,4	1,8	5,6	3,9	6,4	2,6	4,8	4,7	Medium	57
United Arab Emirates	ARE	4,1	0,1	2,3	1,1	1,9	1,5	2,4	1,4	1,9	1,9	Very Low	156
United Kingdom	GBR	2,4	1,4	1,9	0,5	3,6	2,2	2,1	0,9	1,5	1,8	Very Low	164
United States of America	USA	6,7	6,7	6,7	0,8	4,5	2,9	2,7	1,4	2,1	3,4	Low	105
Uruguay	URY	1,9	0,1	1,0	1,9	2,1	2,0	3,8	1,7	2,8	1,8	Very Low	164
Uzbekistan	UZB	5,2	2,0	3,8	3,0	0,6	1,9	4,8	3,0	4,0	3,1	Low	112
Vanuatu	VUT	5,1	0,0	2,9	6,0	1,4	4,1	5,8	5,6	5,7	4,1	Medium	77
Venezuela	VEN	6,1	5,9	6,0	3,0	3,9	3,5	5,3	3,7	4,5	4,6	Medium	61
Viet Nam	VNM	7,3	3,1	5,6	3,3	0,9	2,2	5,1	3,6	4,4	3,8	Medium	91
Yemen	YEM	3,9	10,0	8,3	7,6	8,7	8,2	8,6	6,8	7,8	8,1	Very High	3
Zambia	ZMB	3,3	0,9	2,2	6,2	5,6	5,9	5,0	6,8	6,0	4,3	Medium	71
Zimbabwe	ZWE	4,7	3,6	4,2	5,8	5,0	5,4	5,1	6,6	5,9	5,1	High	46

(\*) Reliability Index: 0 more reliable, 10 less reliable.

## Annex II: Crisis Assessment Index Rank 2019 (March 2019)

### Crisis Assessment Index Rank March 2019



The Crisis Assessment Index lists countries in alphabetical order. The final Crisis Index is shown, as well as the three dimensions. Each dimension has a value that is the result of combining indicators. Note that all values are the result of ranking countries. If countries are in the top quartile (25%), they score 3; in the bottom quartile, they score 1; in the middle 2 quartiles, they score 2.

ISO3	Country*	Uprooted people Index (CI)	Natural Disaster Index (CI)	Conflict Index (CI)	INFORM Crisis Index
AFG	Afghanistan	3	3	3	3
AZE	Azerbaijan	3	0	0	3
BRA	Brazil	0	0	3	3
CAF	Central African Republic	3	0	3	3
TCD	Chad	3	2	1	3
COL	Colombia	3	0	3	3
COD	Congo, Democratic Republic of the	3	0	3	3
CRI	Costa Rica	0	3	0	3
DJI	Djibouti	3	0	0	3
EGY	Egypt	0	0	3	3
SLV	El Salvador	0	3	2	3
ETH	Ethiopia	2	0	3	3
FJI	Fiji	0	3	0	3
GEO	Georgia	3	0	0	3
GTM	Guatemala	2	3	0	3
HND	Honduras	2	3	0	3
IND	India	0	3	3	3
IRQ	Iraq	3	0	3	3
JOR	Jordan	3	0	0	3



PRK	Korea Dem.People's Rep.	0	3	0	3
LAO	Laos	0	3	0	3
LBN	Lebanon	3	0	2	3
LBY	Libya	3	0	3	3
MDG	Madagascar	0	3	0	3
MLI	Mali	0	0	3	3
MRT	Mauritania	2	3	0	3
MEX	Mexico	0	2	3	3
MNG	Mongolia	0	3	0	3
MMR	Myanmar, Union of	0	1	3	3
NRU	Nauru	3	0	0	3
NIC	Nicaragua	0	3	3	3
NER	Niger	2	3	2	3
NGA	Nigeria	2	3	3	3
PAK	Pakistan	2	0	3	3
PSE	Palestine	3	0	3	3
PNG	Papua New Guinea	0	3	0	3
PHL	Philippines	0	3	3	3
SOM	Somalia	3	3	3	3
SSD	South Sudan	3	1	3	3
LKA	Sri Lanka	0	3	0	3
SDN	Sudan	3	0	3	3
SYR	Syrian Arab Republic	3	0	3	3
THA	Thailand	0	3	0	3
TON	Tonga	0	3	0	3
TTO	Trinidad and Tobago	0	3	0	3
TUR	Turkey	3	0	3	3
UKR	Ukraine	2	0	3	3
YEM	Yemen	3	0	3	3

AGO	Angola	0	2	0	2
BGD	Bangladesh	2	2	0	2
BIH	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	0	0	2
BDI	Burundi	2	0	0	2
CMR	Cameroon	2	0	1	2
CHN	China (w/out HongKong)	0	2	0	2
COG	Congo, Rep. Of	2	0	0	2
CUB	Cuba	0	2	0	2
ECU	Ecuador	2	1	0	2
GHA	Ghana	0	2	0	2
IRN	Iran, Islamic Republic of	2	0	0	2
KEN	Kenya	2	1	0	2
MAR	Morocco	0	2	0	2
MOZ	Mozambique	0	2	0	2
NPL	Nepal	0	2	0	2
PER	Peru	0	2	0	2
RWA	Rwanda	2	0	0	2
UGA	Uganda	2	0	0	2
VNM	Vietnam	0	2	0	2
BOL	Bolivia	0	1	0	1
KHM	Cambodia	0	1	0	1
DOM	Dominican Republic	0	1	0	1
TLS	East Timor	0	1	0	1
SWZ	Eswatini	0	1	0	1
HTI	Haiti	0	1	0	1
JAM	Jamaica	0	1	0	1
LSO	Lesotho	0	1	0	1
ALB	Albania	0	0	0	0
DZA	Algeria	0	0	0	0

ATG	Antigua and Barbuda	0	0	0	0
ARG	Argentina	0	0	0	0
ARM	Armenia	0	0	0	0
BHS	Bahamas	0	0	0	0
BHR	Bahrain	0	0	0	0
BRB	Barbados	0	0	0	0
BLR	Belarus	0	0	0	0
BLZ	Belize	0	0	0	0
BEN	Benin	0	0	0	0
BTN	Bhutan	0	0	0	0
BWA	Botswana	0	0	0	0
BRN	Brunei	0	0	0	0
BFA	Burkina Faso	0	0	0	0
CPV	Cap Verde	0	0	0	0
CHL	Chile	0	0	0	0
COM	Comoros	0	0	0	0
CIV	Cote d Ivoire	0	0	0	0
DMA	Dominica	0	0	0	0
GNQ	Equatorial Guinea	0	0	0	0
ERI	Eritrea	0	0	0	0
GAB	Gabon	0	0	0	0
GMB	Gambia	0	0	0	0
GRD	Grenada	0	0	0	0
GIN	Guinea	0	0	0	0
GNB	Guinea Bissau	0	0	0	0
GUY	Guyana	0	0	0	0
IDN	Indonesia	0	0	0	0
KAZ	Kazakhstan	0	0	0	0
KIR	Kiribati	0	0	0	0

KGZ	Kyrgyzstan	0	0	0	0
LBR	Liberia	0	0	0	0
MWI	Malawi	0	0	0	0
MYS	Malaysia	0	0	0	0
MDV	Maldives	0	0	0	0
MHL	Marshall Islands	0	0	0	0
MUS	Mauritius	0	0	0	0
FSM	Micronesia	0	0	0	0
MDA	Moldova	0	0	0	0
MNE	Montenegro	0	0	0	0
NAM	Namibia	0	0	0	0
MKD	North Macedonia	0	0	0	0
PLW	Palau	0	0	0	0
PAN	Panama	0	0	0	0
PRY	Paraguay	0	0	0	0
LCA	Saint Lucia	0	0	0	0
VCT	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0	0	0	0
WSM	Samoa	0	0	0	0
STP	Sao Tome and Principe	0	0	0	0
SEN	Senegal	0	0	0	0
SRB	Serbia	0	0	0	0
SYC	Seychelles	0	0	0	0
SLE	Sierra Leone	0	0	0	0
SLB	Solomon Islands	0	0	0	0
SUR	Suriname	0	0	0	0
TJK	Tajikistan	0	0	0	0
TZA	Tanzania	0	0	0	0
TGO	Togo	0	0	0	0
TUN	Tunisia	0	0	0	0

TKM	Turkmenistan	0	0	0	0
TUV	Tuvalu	0	0	0	0
URY	Uruguay	0	0	0	0
UZB	Uzbekistan	0	0	0	0
VUT	Vanuatu	0	0	0	0
VEN	Venezuela	0	0	0	0
ZMB	Zambia	0	0	0	0
ZWE	Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0

\* Including: ODA Recipients from the DAC List (<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/documentupload/DAC%20List%20of%20ODA%20Recipients%202014%20final.pdf>)

# Annex III: Summary of Forgotten Crises Assessment 2019-2020

## Forgotten Crises Assessment 2019

The FCA index corresponded to the sum of the following four indicators: (1) Vulnerability Index; (2) Media coverage; (3) Public aid per capita; (4) Qualitative assessment of DG ECHO geographical units and experts.

			4 Dimensions					REGION
			FCA Index	INFORM Index	Media coverage	Public aid per capita	Qualitative assessment	
ISO3	Country	Description of the crisis/crises						
AFG	Afghanistan	Countrywide intensifying complex crisis ; Afghan refugees/returnees crisis (Iran); Multiple recurrent natural disasters incl. Drought	8	3	1	1	3	ASIA
PAK	Pakistan	Drought / Food Insecurity and Malnutrition; Afghan refugee crisis; Internal conflict - IDPs / returnees	9	3	1	2	3	
MMR	Myanmar, Union of	Central Rakhine; Kachin and Northern Shan States; Northern Rakhine	10	3	2	2	3	
PHL	Philippines	Mindanao Conflict	10	2	2	3	3	
	Rohingya	Rohingya Regional Crisis						
IND	India		9	2	1	3	3	
IDN	Indonesia		10	2	2	3	3	
BGD	Bangladesh		9	2	2	2	3	
MYS	Malaysia		9	1	2	3	3	
MMR	Myanmar, Union of		10	3	2	2	3	
THA	Thailand		10	2	2	3	3	
DZA	Algeria	Sahrawi Refugee Crisis	10	2	2	3	3	AFRI CA
	Burundi_Region	Burundi regional - refugees crisis						

BDI	Burundi		9	3	2	1	3
RWA	Rwanda		8	2	2	1	3
TZA	Tanzania		10	2	3	2	3
	<b>Central African Republic</b>	<b>Central African Republic Regional Crisis</b>					
CMR	Cameroon		9	2	2	2	3
CAF	Central Africa Republic		9	3	2	1	3
TCD	Chad		9	3	2	1	3
	<b>Sahel</b>	<b>Conflicts and violence</b>					
BFA	Burkina Faso		9	2	2	2	3
MLI	Mali		8	3	1	1	3
MRT	Mauritania		10	2	3	2	3
NER	Niger		10	3	2	2	3
SDN	Sudan	<b>Food and nutrition crises, internal conflict</b>	9	3	1	2	3
COL	Colombia	<b>internal armed conflict</b>	8	2	1	2	3
HTI	Haiti	<b>Food and Nutrition crisis</b>	10	3	3	1	3
	<b>Central America</b>	<b>Food insecurity and violence</b>					
SLV	El Salvador		9	2	2	2	3
GTM	Guatemala		9	2	2	2	3
HND	Honduras		9	2	2	2	3
MEX	Mexico		9	2	1	3	3
	<b>Caribbean</b>	<b>Venezuelan and Haitian refugees crisis</b>					
CUB	Cuba		7	1	2	1	3
DMA	Dominica		8	1	3	1	3
DOM	Dominican Republic		9	1	3	2	3
GRD	Grenada		9	1	3	2	3
GIN	Guinea		9	2	2	2	3
JAM	Jamaica		9	1	3	2	3
LCA	Saint Lucia		9	1	3	2	3
VCT	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		8	1	3	1	3
TTO	Trinidad and Tobago		10	1	3	3	3

**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

UKR	Ukraine	Conflict	8	2	1	2	3	EUROPE
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*PRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Food insecurity and undernutrition	9	2	1	3	3
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\*The food crisis in DPRK has been identified as a forgotten crises.

However, the situation is currently not conducive for principled humanitarian operations which is why it has not been included in the list.