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From: Secretary-General of the European Commission,  
signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director

date of receipt: 5 December 2016

To: Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of  
the European Union

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Operational Priorities for Humanitarian Aid in 2017

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**COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT**

**General Guidelines on Operational Priorities for Humanitarian Aid in 2017**

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The Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (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 ECHO in this area is to save and preserve life, to reduce or prevent suffering and to safeguard the integrity and dignity of people affected by humanitarian crises by providing relief and protection. 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.

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 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 2016 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> and will cover, in particular, capacity building and technical assistance of hosting and sending organisations, the second call for deployment of volunteers and the continuation of support measures such as awareness raising and networking of volunteers. As far as emergency support is concerned, the related actions in the field are covered by a dedicated financing decision adopted by the Commission upon decision of the Council of the European Union to activate emergency support under Regulation (EU) 2016/369.

ECHO will also contribute to the development and set up of the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) announced by the President of the Commission in his State of the Union Address<sup>5</sup>. The ESC will enable young people, regardless of their background and whether currently in education, training, employed or out of work, to support the work of a local authority, a non-

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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 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 924).

<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).

<sup>5</sup> Strasbourg, 14.9.2016.

governmental organisation or a private company addressing solidarity challenges, such as social exclusion, poverty, health and demographic challenges, working on the reception and integration of refugees, or rebuilding areas hit by a natural disaster.

## **Outlook for 2017**

Humanitarian crises have increased in number, complexity and severity over the last 25 years. Today, an estimated 250 million people are affected by humanitarian crises worldwide.

By 2015, an unprecedented 65.3 million people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly 21.3 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18.<sup>6</sup> In addition most displacements are becoming protracted due to frozen, regional conflicts. Children in particular are amongst the most vulnerable victims of conflict; 37 million of them are out of school due to conflicts.

The world has to deal with three L3 emergencies<sup>7</sup>: Iraq, Syria and Yemen.

Overall, in August 2016, the UN's inter-agency strategic response plans amounted to USD 21.7 billion to help 95.4 million people (and this may increase further until the end of the year).<sup>8</sup> Half-way through 2016, just 39% of the global humanitarian appeal remains funded.

While needs are continuing to dramatically increase, funding is not. It is therefore essential to identify and focus on main priorities and guiding principles on the basis of which budgetary allocations are determined. In 2017, EU humanitarian aid will continue to focus its funding allocation on supporting those most in need following sudden onset, protracted and forgotten crises<sup>9</sup>.

The European Commission will continue to support the urgent needs of the populations affected by the Syrian crisis. Following-up on the Commission pledge at the London Conference on "Supporting Syria and the region" (4 February 2016), and notably the measures to respond to the refugee crisis over 2016 and 2017, the initial European Commission proposal for the 2017 draft budget requires a significant reinforcement. This amount will be used for the Syria crisis – also covering neighbouring Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt.

The impact of the Syria regional crisis on Turkey is unprecedented and will continue to represent a major challenge in 2017. With over 3 million registered refugees in 2016, out of which 2.7 million are Syrians, Turkey is the host to the largest refugee population in the world. ECHO will continue to provide assistance for the most vulnerable refugees coordinated through the EU Facility of Refugees in Turkey<sup>10</sup>. The envelope for humanitarian aid will amount to a minimum of EUR 1 billion in 2016-17, which is partly covered by the EU budget and partly by assigned revenue from the Member States. Its main vehicle is the Emergency

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<sup>6</sup> UNHCR Figures at a Glance - Global Trends 2015.

<sup>7</sup> L3 represents the global humanitarian system's classification for the response to the most severe, large-scale humanitarian crises.

<sup>8</sup> OCHA, Humanitarian Funding Update, August 2016.

<sup>9</sup> The methodology used to that end is supported by the ECHO Integrated Analysis Framework (IAF), the Index for Risk Management – INFORM and the Forgotten Crisis Assessment (FCA).

<sup>10</sup> Commission Decision of 24 November 2015 on the coordination of the actions of the Union and of the Member States through a coordination mechanism — the Refugee Facility for Turkey (2015/C 407/07) OJ C 407, 8.12.2015, p. 8–13 as amended by Commission Decision of 10 February 2016 on the Facility for Refugees in Turkey amending Commission Decision C(2015) 9500 of 24 November 2015 (C/2016/855) OJ C 60, 16.2.2016, p. 3–6

Social Safety Net (ESSN), a ground-breaking monthly cash-transfer system that will cover the basic needs (food, shelter, etc.) of up to one million refugees via an electronic card.

After decades of violence, Iraq continues to suffer multiple crises; humanitarian, political, security and economic. In 2017, the country will enter the fourth year of its latest armed conflict, with large-scale humanitarian consequences. In 2017, ECHO will continue advocating for the protection and humanitarian access for all populations in need, for a principled humanitarian response, as well as supporting life-saving programmes in the food, health, shelter, core relief items, wash and emergency education sectors.

In Africa, man-made crises have created an extremely volatile and rapidly evolving dynamic. These include, the political crisis/instability in South Sudan and its impact on more than 1 million refugees in the region, the situation in DRC, Burundi, Somalia, CAR, Mali, Libya and the continuing violence by Boko Haram in North-East Nigeria, as well as its spill-over effects in the entire Lake Chad region.. This has entailed significant humanitarian consequences, including large population displacements. In addition, climate change, aggravated over the past two years by the El Niño phenomenon, is increasing the impact of the recurrent food insecurity and nutrition challenges and is further reducing the resilience of the most vulnerable. Severe food shortages are particularly acute in the Horn of Africa and Southern Africa. The Sahel population is expected to remain the largest one affected by food and nutrition insecurity in the world, with 20-25 million food insecure people every year; in 2016 the number of people affected by food insecurity in the Sahel has reached 30-35 million individuals, taking into account the deterioration of the situation in Northern Nigeria. In Ethiopia, the figure of food insecure people stands at over 9 million as of October 2016. In Southern Africa, more than 15 million people are impacted by the El Niño phenomena. In Algeria, the forgotten Sahrawi crisis still requires humanitarian support to cater for the basic needs of long-term refugees, a task that requires broadening the spectrum of humanitarian donors.

Yemen has turned into the number one humanitarian crisis in absolute numbers. Out of a total population of around 26 million, 21.2 million people (i.e. 82% of the total population) are estimated to be in need of some form of assistance. In 2017 ECHO will continue to apply a multi-sector approach to the conflict, focusing mainly on life-saving activities, where priority will be given to the most vulnerable groups and people most at risk of violence, abuse and exploitation.

Access to victims in need and the protection of the most vulnerable are increasingly challenged due to wide-spread and growing lack of compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and fundamental humanitarian principles. This crisis of protection is partly linked to the fact that many of the conflicts are civil wars or internal strife situations, increasingly involving non-state actors, thus dramatically increasing the rate of civilian victims and putting the security of humanitarian personnel at stake. ECHO will continue supporting initiatives, as part of the humanitarian operations it finances, leading to enhanced IHL protection for victims of armed conflict.

Humanitarian needs are further exacerbated by the effect of climate change and the damages inflicted by extreme weather, especially in disaster hot spots exposed to repeated climatic shocks and where human settlements are fragile.

Education in emergencies will remain at the forefront of ECHO actions. Commissioner Christos Stylianides announced during the Oslo Summit on Education for Development (July 2015) the intention to scale-up the European Commission's support towards education in emergencies to the global target of 4%. At the World Humanitarian Summit, he vowed to

increase funding even further. Funding for this priority will be channeled to provide life-saving skills and help children, particularly in situations of protracted displacement, to build a future.

While an effective response will always be at the heart of humanitarian action, more emphasis will have to be placed on prevention and preparedness. ECHO will further promote the resilience of vulnerable populations to better withstand the effects of shocks and stress incurred by conflict or natural disasters. Resilience is therefore mainstreamed in all humanitarian interventions and further funding will be ensured through initiatives in the Sahel or through contribution to the new EU Trust Fund in Africa. Furthermore, planned increased targeted and enhanced Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) actions will ensure the fulfilment of the EU commitment under the Sendai Framework of Action.

ECHO will put even more emphasis on the assurance of effective and accountable implementation, with a strong focus on the results to be achieved. The action of our partners will be instrumental for this. One step will be a thorough assessment of needs in the different crises. The consolidated and improved network of ECHO field offices will continue to play an important role in this regard. Yet, the integration of INFORM<sup>11</sup> in the decision-making processes will also continue to help understand and measure the risk and underlying drivers of humanitarian crises, so as to promote evidence-based decisions. Another step will be to increase burden-sharing with other donors and partners. In budgetary terms, it will be essential that payment appropriations are maintained at an adequate level, reflecting the exceptional nature of humanitarian assistance, notably the short project cycle and the need to pay upfront a significant part of the amount, immediately after contracts are signed.

ECHO will continue to address weaknesses and gaps in the international response system. A main outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit 2016 is the 'Grand Bargain', bringing together donors and 'doers' to improve performance in areas such as transparency, needs assessment, localisation of response, beneficiary involvement and harmonised reporting, among others. The EU endorsed the Grand Bargain on May 23, 2016 in Istanbul and will work on operationalising these commitments in its policy and operations, in strong partnership with other Grand Bargain signatories.

Strengthening of the overall international humanitarian system through a systematic roll out of the transformative agenda will need to continue. Advocacy in favour of principled humanitarian aid and respect for IHL remains a core political tool.

## **1. GENERAL CONTEXT**

The unparalleled surge in crises and humanitarian disasters experienced in 2016 is not likely to recede over in the next years. Against this background, it is ever more relevant to increase effectiveness of humanitarian aid by underpinning actions on the ground and strategic funding decisions with evidence and to ensure coherence and complementarity of the different tools.

### **1.1. Improving aid effectiveness, efficiency and quality of operations**

Aid effectiveness and result-oriented actions will be at the core of the EU's humanitarian agenda in 2017. In the context of the World Humanitarian Summit, the EU made a number of concrete commitments to step up its efforts to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of

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<sup>11</sup> See sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 below.



humanitarian action. A main outcome of the summit is the Grand Bargain; which envisages bringing together donors and implementing agencies to pursue several interrelated work streams to improve performance in areas such as transparency, needs assessment, localisation of response, beneficiary involvement and harmonised reporting. The Commission will contribute to operationalising these approaches in policy and operations, in strong partnership with other Grand Bargain signatories, including many of its main humanitarian partners. In particular, ECHO, will, together with OCHA take a global lead on advancing a coordinated approach to needs assessment. The objective is to develop a collaborative, pragmatic and evidence-based approach to underpin and improve strategic and operational decision-making.

Aid effectiveness and efficiency will also be pursued through targeted dissemination and continued development of guidance on thematic and cross-cutting issues such as food, nutrition, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), health, gender and age, disaster risk reduction and protection. At the same time, systematic monitoring and reviews by the Commission's humanitarian experts as well as employment key results indicators and specific markers will be ensured that EU-funded operations are implemented in line with this guidance.

In 2017, ECHO will focus on the following areas that became highly relevant in the current humanitarian context:

#### **Forced displacement:**

More than 65 million people worldwide are currently displaced. In 2017, ECHO will continue addressing the consequences of protracted displacement on both host populations and forcibly displaced populations. The particular challenge of protracted displacement has been addressed throughout the Commission's new Communication on forced displacement<sup>12</sup> elaborates a new development-led approach that is seeking to prevent forced displacement from becoming protracted and to gradually end dependence on humanitarian assistance in existing displacement situations by fostering self-reliance and enabling the displaced to live in dignity as contributors to their host societies, until voluntary return or resettlement. This new approach highlights the linkages between all relevant actors (development, political, economic and humanitarians) and seeks to build stronger synergies. This approach will be implemented in 2017 at country/regional level.

#### **Enhancing Protection**

The sharp increase in the number of complex, human-made crises, not least in Middle Income Countries, and the increase in deliberate breaches of IHL by targeting civilians, and in particular women and children, has made protection the number one challenge in today's humanitarian contexts. The international humanitarian system has tried to respond by the establishment of a dedicated protection cluster and repeated calls for "centrality of protection", but with mixed results. In order to reflect recent developments, ECHO has revised and updated its protection guidelines<sup>13</sup>, which were released in May 2016, enhancing the protection aspects of humanitarian operations being part of the commitments made by the EU at the World Humanitarian Summit. It outlines the definition and objectives of ECHO's humanitarian protection work and will inform programming of protection in humanitarian crises, measuring effect of interventions and planning capacity-building activities.

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<sup>12</sup> COM(2016) 234 final - Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance Forced Displacement and Development

<sup>13</sup> SWD(2016) 183 final - Humanitarian Protection: Improving protection outcomes to reduce risks for people in humanitarian crises

Linked to the protection challenge, advocacy for compliance with IHL is increasingly becoming central to the EU's message in international conflicts. It will be supported by clearly defined advocacy strategies.

### **Supporting Education in Emergencies**

Education in Emergencies (EiE) has become a crucial issue as the threat of 'lost generations' has become more and more apparent, prompted both by the Syrian crisis and the growing number of children in long term displacement on the global scale. Now, Education in Emergencies (EiE) is at the forefront of discussions in Member States, the European Parliament, among implementing partners and in the wider post-World Humanitarian Summit context. By today, education is widely recognised as a basic need and life-saving intervention in emergency contexts. Therefore, ECHO will increase its support to education in emergencies for children affected by crisis, through the mainstreaming of education in its humanitarian implementation plans. Education in emergencies is crucial for the protection and healthy development of crisis-affected children, as it gives children a sense of normality and a safe space, helps them to cope with distressing situations and recover from crises, and provides life skills. Mainstreaming education will therefore contribute to enhance the quality of humanitarian aid operations.

### **Shelter and settlement**

Shelter is a basic human need and a critical determinant for survival in most disasters. Beyond survival, shelter is necessary to provide security, personal safety and protection from the climate and to promote resistance to ill health and disease. Innovative, needs-based and cost-effective delivery of humanitarian shelter and settlement services will be promoted together with solutions that respect local cultures, resources and customs, pose no harm to the environment and encourage responsible innovation such as more support devoted to early self-repair and reconstruction effort in urban settings. In particular, there is considerable potential in this sector for cash modality as a means of improving cost-efficiency; consequently, the evidence base is being built-up, and good practice identified, so that this can be applied in a way that still ensures shelters that meet humanitarian standards.

### **Urban settings**

Urbanisation is changing the nature and scale of risk at an unprecedented rate. At the same time, an increasing number of people are seeking refuge in cities in the context of global forced displacement, with urban settings presenting their own set of unique challenges and opportunities. In 2017, ECHO will continue to promote urban resilience in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, as well as ensure follow-up on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. In order to meet the complexity of needs in urban settings, ECHO will promote a multi-sectoral approach to assessments and programming in urban settings. The scale of humanitarian response to urban crises also requires multi-level understanding and intervention at household, neighbourhood and city scale.

### **Mainstreaming environment**

The quality, impact and long-term outcomes of humanitarian action are improved by environmentally responsible life-saving and life-sustaining humanitarian action. Mainstreaming environmental considerations can also reduce conflict drivers, increase resilience, self-reliance and sustainability and improve aid-effectiveness and resource-efficiency. In 2017, ECHO will strengthen environment knowledge, map existing tools and where relevant, mainstream environment into guidelines and implementation plans

## **Evaluation**

Evaluation is a key tool for improving effectiveness and efficiency of EU initiatives. ECHO's evaluation programme (2016–2020) contains 30 evaluations and provides full evaluation coverage of ECHO's activities (humanitarian aid and civil protection) over the programme period. In 2016 the following evaluation related projects were completed, and the reports are made available on ECHO's evaluation webpage on Europa<sup>14</sup>: Study on cost-effectiveness, protection and education of children in emergency and crisis Situations, building resilience in the LAC Region; and Sudan and South Sudan.

The following four projects were/are to be launched in 2016: Comprehensive evaluation of Humanitarian Aid, Interim evaluation of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, Humanitarian interventions in the Health sector, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean; and India and Bangladesh.

## **Multi-purpose cash-based assistance**

It is increasingly recognised that cash-based assistance is often the most appropriate response in terms of speed, flexibility, choice and dignity of beneficiaries. Hence, greater use of unconditional cash as a key tool is being promoted through the Food Assistance Convention, and in other fora such as the WFP Executive Board meetings. Multi-purpose cash transfers will increasingly be used in EU-funded humanitarian operations. This approach is supported by the evaluation of the use of different transfer modalities in humanitarian aid, published in 2016<sup>15</sup>. Within the context of the Grand Bargain, the EU is intent on meeting its commitments on increasing the use of multi-purpose cash, in the context of the humanitarian operations it finances, and supporting the gathering of further evidence on efficiency gains of using cash-based assistance. In 2017, ECHO will also further develop a 'basic needs approach' (BNA), which allows for differentiated, but better coordinated and integrated responses across intervention sectors. The implementation of the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) in Turkey is an example at scale of what such an approach could look like.

## **Resilience**

Resilience remains a cross-cutting priority in EU humanitarian action, and its objectives (EU Action Plan on Resilience<sup>16</sup>) will continue to be mainstreamed in all interventions. Resilience calls for a stronger humanitarian-development nexus through closer coordination of humanitarian and development action. This will be pursued in line with the Grand Bargain through promoting joint analysis of risks and vulnerabilities, reaching a common definition of priorities and co-ordinated action to improve the situation and self-reliance of the most vulnerable. This is achieved in parallel with increased engagement and support from Members States behind nationally and regionally led resilience strategies, e.g. the AGIR (Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative in the Sahel) and the Global Alliance supporting the Horn of Africa's Resilience initiatives, and particularly in fragile and vulnerable countries. Furthermore, the contribution of humanitarian funds to newly established EU Trust Funds will be used as leverage for increasing resilience of the most vulnerable.

## **Communication**

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<sup>14</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding-evaluations/evaluations\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding-evaluations/evaluations_en)

<sup>15</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding-evaluations/evaluations\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding-evaluations/evaluations_en).

<sup>16</sup> SWD (2013) 227 final, 19.06.2013.

Funding for communication actions via the Humanitarian Implementation Plans will aim to strengthen targeted communication actions towards the EU audiences in support of operational priorities. These do not substitute the basic field visibility at project level, which is a legal obligation on the part of EU funded organisations. Communication actions funded via Humanitarian Implementation Plans (HIPs) will be an integral part of ECHO's overall annual communication strategy.

## 1.2. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

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

The Commission's strategic approach to DRR is closely aligned to Sendai Priority 4 on enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response. All EU-funded programmes are informed by risk analysis and ensure adequate protection to beneficiaries and continuity of operations. ECHO also supports targeted actions to enhance local capacities for preparedness and early action based on gaps to be filled, EU added value, partnership and a longer term vision. This includes promoting complementary DRR activities via the European Union Aid Volunteers initiative (EUAV) and relevant activities under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM).

## 2. OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

### 2.1. Priorities reflected in the budget allocation

#### 2.1.1. General methodology

In line with the Treaty, the Humanitarian Aid Regulation<sup>17</sup> and the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, 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) to be adopted by the Commission, 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 Crisis Assessment (FCA)** and the **Integrated Analysis Framework (IAF)**.

2016 saw the completion of the fourth 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 ECHO's Humanitarian Implementation Plans (HIPs). 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.

ECHO also carries out at central level a global evaluation, which has the following dimensions: (i) the **Index for Risk Management – INFORM**<sup>18</sup>, which categorises countries on the basis of their risk to humanitarian crisis and disasters, the **Crisis Assessment**, which in 2016 builds on three INFORM indicators: conflict intensity score, uprooted people and

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<sup>17</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid (OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1).

<sup>18</sup> More information on INFORM: [www.inform-index.org](http://www.inform-index.org)

number of people affected by natural disasters, and (ii) the **Forgotten Crisis 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.

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, 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 intervention 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.

### *2.1.2. 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 3 dimensions of risk at country level: (i) **Hazard & Exposure**; (ii) **Vulnerability**; and (iii) **Lack of Coping capacity**; grouping 191 countries based on a four-level risk assessment approach: very high, high, medium and low risk countries<sup>19</sup>.

Of 49 countries most at risk<sup>20</sup> from humanitarian emergencies and disasters identified in September 2016, 44 are at high risk of Hazard & Exposure, 45 countries have high Vulnerability and 36 countries experience high Lack of Coping capacity. **30 countries were identified with very high risks in all 3 risk dimensions**: Somalia, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Afghanistan, Chad, Yemen, Niger, DRC, Sudan, Iraq, Myanmar, Haiti, Ethiopia, Burundi, Nigeria, Cameroon, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Uganda, Papua New Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Tanzania, Korea DPR, Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Congo, Djibouti and Senegal. Syria although not considered as suffering from a very high lack of coping capacity is however ranked by INFORM at the 10<sup>th</sup> position in terms of risk.

The September 2016 **crisis assessment** identified 57 countries currently 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 55 countries identified, 27 countries suffered from a violent national or subnational conflict, 33 countries suffered from a natural disaster in 2016, while 22 countries experienced a large number of uprooted people (as compared to their total population), all represented by a crisis assessment indicator of 3.

### *2.1.3. Forgotten Crisis Assessment*

The Forgotten Crisis assessment (FCA) attempts to identify crises characterised by very low media coverage, a lack of donor interest (as measured through aid per capita) and a weak political commitment to solve the crisis, resulting in an insufficient presence of humanitarian actors.

The FCA 2016-2017 exercise identified the existence of 12 forgotten crisis situations among which 10 were already identified as forgotten in 2014-15. The newly identified proposed

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<sup>19</sup> For an in-depth analysis of all 191 countries, please refer to INFORM countries' risk profiles on: <http://www.inform-index.org/>

<sup>20</sup> INFORM Very High and High Risk classes.

forgotten crises in 2016 are Mali and the regional dimension of the CAR refugee crisis in Chad and Cameroon:

1. The **Chittagong Hill Tracts** in **Bangladesh**
2. Armed conflict in **Colombia**
3. Conflict affected population in **India**
4. **Myanmar**: Northern Rakhine State and Kachin and Shan State conflict
5. Conflict in Mindanao in **Philippines**
6. Sahrawi refugee crisis in **Algeria**
7. **Sudan**: Darfur, Refugees, Transitional Areas, East Sudan
8. CAR refugees in **Cameroon**
9. Darfur and CAR refugees in Eastern **Chad**
10. **Pakistan**: country-wide conflict affected populations, natural disaster affected populations and Afghan refugees
11. **Yemen**: country-wide crisis (including conflict affected population, uprooted people and general acute malnutrition)
12. **Mali**: Northern Mali conflict

An amount corresponding to 14.5% of the planned geographical humanitarian aid budget allocation is being earmarked for the final forgotten crises list.

The INFORM countries, data on crisis assessment, forgotten crisis assessment and a visual representation of these results are to be found in the Annexes to this document.

#### *2.1.4. Integrated Analysis Framework*

As part of ECHO's annual assessment exercise, INFORM and other indices are accompanied by an **in-depth (sub)country level assessment through the Integrated Analysis Framework (IAF) process**<sup>21</sup>.

The IAF exercise draws on ECHO's field presence and humanitarian expertise adding qualitative judgements based on individual crises within a country. 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 a country / context analysis (national and sub-national levels), field level needs assessment, response analyses (covering for example information on the presence of other donors, LRRD options, humanitarian coordination or partners' implementation capacity), specific food and nutrition analysis, a forgotten crisis recommendation where appropriate and disaster risk reduction (DRR) assessment.

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<sup>21</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.

#### 2.1.5. *Other considerations*

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 our 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.

ECHO also aims to ensure that proper needs assessment and monitoring take place and only accepts "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.

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

The general EU budget earmarked on the budget lines for humanitarian aid/food assistance and disaster preparedness (DIPECHO) is EUR 40 700 000. This amount is to be used to finance humanitarian aid operations aiming essentially to:

- (a) Provide humanitarian and food assistance, relief and protection to vulnerable people affected by man-made crises, possibly aggravated by natural disasters, including new crises and existing crises where the scale and complexity of the humanitarian crisis is such that it seems likely to continue.
- (b) Provide humanitarian and food assistance, relief and protection to vulnerable people affected by natural disasters that have entailed major loss of life, physical and psychological or social suffering or material damage.
- (c) Provide 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.
- (d) Support strategies and complement 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.
- (e) Improve the delivery of aid through complementary and thematic activities aiming at increasing the effectiveness, efficiency, quality, timeliness and visibility of humanitarian actions and transport.

ECHO will maintain its broadened **regional approach** implemented in 2015 and 2016 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 ECHO will support humanitarian and food assistance to vulnerable people affected by man-made crisis and/or natural disasters, and on DIPECHO operations.

## **2.2. North, West and Central Africa**

### ***West Africa***

Recurrent food and nutrition crises in recent years have seriously reduced the resilience of the most vulnerable populations in the Sahel/West Africa and, hence, their capacity to absorb shocks. Populations are very vulnerable, facing a series of different challenges, such as poverty, climate change, food and nutrition insecurity, epidemics, population growth, conflict and insecurity. The number of people suffering from food and nutrition insecurity remains at a permanently high level. Currently some 37 million people are severely or moderately food insecure, with 6.3 million of them in need of emergency food assistance. 3.8 million children under 5 are in need of 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 and in Northern Mali have forcibly displaced more than 2.8 million people and severely impacted their livelihoods as well as the livelihoods of local communities.

In 2017, there is no prospect of the number of undernourished children decreasing significantly as the reasons for under-nutrition are many-fold, sustainable prevention interventions are only implemented on a small-scale basis and resilience building efforts take time to show a concrete impact. Therefore, continued humanitarian engagement in the region is required.

Humanitarian efforts will continue to focus on the following priority areas: reduction and prevention of under-nutrition related mortality; multi-sectoral emergency assistance and protection for populations affected by conflict, in particular in areas with high displacement; education in emergencies; Disaster Risk Reduction and preparedness; 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 through AGIR (Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative).

Interventions in West Africa will cover primarily vulnerable populations in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal. In addition, a response will be provided to epidemics and natural disasters in coastal West African countries<sup>22</sup> as appropriate.

### **Mali**

The implementation of the June 2015 Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation is slow and has so far not brought lasting peace and stability in Northern Mali. An increasing number of security incidents in the Northern regions continue to have a negative impact on the presence of government services, MINUSMA and humanitarian access. Therefore, access to basic services in these regions has not been restored yet and almost 1.5 million people are entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance. This includes 134 000 refugees who are not expected to be able to return in the near future and 39 000 IDPs. At the same time, food and nutrition insecurity seriously affects populations across the country. Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)

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<sup>22</sup> Benin, Cape Verde, the Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Guinea Sierra Leone and Togo.



rates remain above the emergency threshold of 10%. An estimated 3 million people are food insecure while 423 000 people need emergency food assistance, including 180 000 children.

In 2017, it is envisaged to continue to provide food assistance and basic services to the most vulnerable local and displaced populations in Northern Mali. At the same time, support will be given to reduce Severe Acute Malnutrition and food insecurity as well as to build resilience, linking with development actions to the largest extent possible. In addition, it is planned to strengthen humanitarian access to the Northern regions, notably through the continued use of ECHO Flight, and to address the needs of Malian refugees in neighbouring countries. In addition, response to natural disasters and epidemics (including preparedness) is foreseen.

## **Nigeria**

While a relatively large economy, Nigeria is facing considerable humanitarian challenges. Twenty-five million people are affected by conflict and 6.2 million people in the Northeast require food assistance, nutrition, health and protection. In absolute terms, the country has the highest number of under-nourished children in Africa, predominantly in the 11 most Northern states. An estimated 756 000 children under five die every year from under-nutrition and related causes.

The country is regularly affected by epidemics linked to poor health care coverage and lack of access to clean water and sanitation. Furthermore, populations living in the Benue and Niger River basins are regularly affected by floods.

Over the past two years, there has been a massive increase in the number of internally displaced persons in the Northeast due to the continued Boko Haram insurgency. The latest IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix exercise confirmed that 2.1 million people are internally displaced and over 170 000 have sought refuge in neighbouring Niger, Chad and Cameroon.

In 2017, the main focus of the humanitarian action will be on providing assistance to the internally displaced people through food assistance, shelter, water and sanitation, basic health and protection support. In addition, support is foreseen to improve the management of Severe Acute Malnutrition and associated diseases in order to reduce mortality of vulnerable children under five. Support will be provided to help build the most vulnerable populations' resilience. Furthermore, humanitarian assistance will be provided as appropriate to respond to other emerging humanitarian needs, for instance related to natural disasters or epidemics.

## ***Central Africa***

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

After a highly volatile transition process in 2014 and 2015 and the election of a new democratic government in 2016, a relative calm prevails but the overall security situation is unstable.

Humanitarian needs remain very high due to recurrent localised outbreaks of violence, continuing protection threats, protracted as well as new population displacements, widespread destruction of homes, disruption of basic services and livelihoods, high levels of food and nutrition insecurity. The total population is estimated at 4.8 million, of whom 2.3 million (almost half) are considered in need of immediate assistance. 1.8 million people are food insecure. As of June 2016, 391 433 people are still internally displaced (IDPs) compared to

451 986 in December 2015, due to spontaneous returns. Small-scale spontaneous return of refugees from the neighbouring countries has also started, mainly for exploratory purposes. All returnees are facing difficulties to access their legal rights notably to secure their housing, land and property and are confronted with the challenge of intercommunal peaceful co-existence.

In 2017 humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable populations will be maintained so as to meet their basic needs in an integrated manner. Support will encompass protection, emergency food and nutrition assistance and short-term livelihood, emergency health and WASH interventions, provision of shelter and non-food items, support to education in emergencies. In responding to the most pressing needs, humanitarian assistance will support building the resilience of affected populations. In addition, support to voluntary return movements is envisaged as appropriate, benefitting both returnees and resident populations in return areas. This will be done in a strong LRRD framework, to which the European Commission committed through the creation of the first EU Trust Fund for CAR ("Békou") in July 2014.

At the same time, advocacy efforts will continue to help ensure that the CAR crisis, including its regional dimension, remains high on the international agenda and receives an adequate international response.

## **Chad**

In 2016, Chad continued to be at the juncture of major crises (Central African Republic, Nigeria, Libya, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo), with cumulative displacement effects over time. The needs remained high and related to both manmade and natural disasters, including epidemics.

Chad currently hosts more than 388 000 refugees in the Eastern, Southern and Western regions, and 99 800 returnees mainly in the South. It also hosts more than 101 000 IDPs, in majority newly displaced fleeing Boko Haram violence in the Lake Chad basin.

The Sahel belt of Chad continues to suffer high levels of food insecurity due to several reasons, including notably difficult climatic conditions (lately further aggravated by the consequences of the El Niño phenomenon), endemic poverty and chronic underdevelopment, and, more recently, the conflict in the Lake Chad area. These factors have triggered various food and nutrition crises, seriously impacted livelihood, negatively affected the coping capacities of the most vulnerable and their resilience. The emergency threshold for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) has been exceeded in thirteen regions, and an increasing number of children under five (200 000 in 2016 as compared to 154 400 in 2015) are estimated in need of urgent nutrition treatment. Food and nutrition insecurity is projected to persist in 2017.

Furthermore, Chad is exposed to natural disasters such as floods and local dry spells, and to epidemics, with cholera and malaria being persistent threats.

The combination of high vulnerability with low response capacity and a limited donor engagement qualifies the refugee situation in the East (Darfuri refugees) and the South (CAR refugees) of the country as a forgotten crisis.

Against this background, humanitarian actions in 2017 will focus on multi-sectoral emergency support to vulnerable refugees, returnees and host populations, while encouraging

self-reliance as much as possible; reduction in under-nutrition related mortality among children under five and their mothers through emergency support combined with resilience building measures, factoring in the commitments made through the AGIR initiative; support to preparedness and response to new emergencies; facilitate the linkage between humanitarian and development support.

## **Cameroon**

In 2016, Cameroon continued to face growing humanitarian needs linked to the escalating Boko Haram crisis in the Far North region and the persistent displacement situation in the Eastern regions (CAR refugees).

In the Eastern areas, the influx of Central African refugees, which started at the end of 2013, has continued throughout 2014-2015 and in 2016, though on a smaller scale. The majority of the 158 500 CAR refugees that have arrived since December 2013 rely completely on humanitarian assistance to cover their basic needs. In view of the volatile context in CAR and based on intention surveys conducted in April 2016 among the refugees, return prospects are unlikely to materialise on a large scale in the immediate future, although the situation could evolve rapidly in the course of 2017.

In the Far North region of Cameroon, violent Boko Haram attacks on civilians has caused massive population displacement and severely disrupted agricultural and trading activities. The number of both refugees from Nigeria (57 150) and IDPs (currently estimated at 158 200) continues to increase. This creates an extremely difficult situation for host communities, who already have already faced chronic food and nutrition insecurity prior to the crisis. Due to the persisting conflict in the Lake Chad basin, this situation is expected to continue in 2017. Acute needs are anticipated in the areas of protection, food and nutrition, access to basic services (notably health and water supply). Needs might rapidly evolve, however, depending on the course of the conflict and on the actual implementation of the Tripartite Agreement on refugee repatriation between Cameroon and Nigeria, under the aegis of UNHCR.

In response to this complex situation, humanitarian interventions in 2017 will continue to focus on the provision of multi-sectoral emergency assistance and protection, responding to basic needs of refugees and IDPs in camps and with host communities, while ensuring emergency food and nutrition assistance to affected resident populations in the Far North. Support to voluntary return movements of displaced populations is also envisaged as appropriate.

## ***North Africa***

In 2017, continued humanitarian support will be provided to conflict-affected populations in Libya and to the Sahrawi refugees in Algeria. As North Africa is prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and droughts, an emergency response in North African countries could be envisaged if significant humanitarian gaps are identified.

## **Algeria - Sahrawi refugees**

The Sahrawi refugees crisis derives from a 40-year old conflict resulting in a protracted refugee situation in South-western Algeria (Tindouf), where an estimated 90 000 Sahrawi

refugees<sup>23</sup> are almost entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance, with little prospects for return, integration or resettlement. Dry and fresh food, water in adequate quality, sanitation, essential medicines, logistic support to deliver aid, remain the basic needs in the Sahrawi refugee camps. Considering the limited employment opportunities in the Sahara desert, it is unlikely that basic humanitarian needs (food, water, medicines) of the Sahrawi refugees will decrease. Overall humanitarian funding has, however, decreased by 20% in the last five years, with EU humanitarian funding now representing around 40% of the overall assistance. There is a need to maximise the impact of the assistance provided and also look at other funding instruments to complement humanitarian aid. Livelihood and self-reliance initiatives would give some employment perspectives to the youth in particular who feels increasingly frustrated by their dependency and lack of employment opportunities. Funding in 2017 will focus on food and livelihood support, water and sanitation, health, logistics and security. Protection, coordination, education in emergencies, advocacy and visibility remain important. Given the overall caseload, competitive priorities and the budget available, broadening the spectrum of humanitarian donors will be essential in order to maintain the same level of assistance as in 2016.

## **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 and the ongoing fighting between armed groups, including with the so-called Islamic State for Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and with other extremist groups pose a threat against humanitarian access. Insecurity has affected the main urban centres over the last months, with violent fighting in Benghazi and Sirte in particular. The country's economy has been severely affected by the conflict and by the absence of a functioning government, which has significantly impacted the lives of civilians with shortages in medical, food and fuel supplies, multiple displacements, breakdown of the social and medical infrastructure, disruption of basic services and communication, and disregard for IHL. The recent IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix exercise estimates that approximately 348 000 people have been internally displaced, while 1.3 million are in need of assistance. Since Libya has traditionally been both a final destination for migrants and a transit country for those attempting to reach Europe, many migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are caught up in the Libya conflict in a situation of high vulnerability and in need of protection.

Humanitarian support in 2017 will focus mainly on health, shelter, non-food items and addressing the humanitarian and protection needs of the most vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities and returnees, refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as vulnerable migrants including, if appropriate, in detention centers. Continued support will be provided to advocate for the respect of IHL and initiatives aiming at strengthening local partners' capacities to implement humanitarian programmes.

The situation in the region is likely to remain volatile in 2017. As a spill-over from the conflict in Libya into Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt or Morocco, these countries could face an increased influx of refugees and migrants seeking their way to Europe or third country nationals escaping the war. An emergency response could be provided as appropriate.

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

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<sup>23</sup> In the absence of a registration exercise, UNHCR has been using the planning figure of 90 000 most vulnerable refugees for its assistance programmes

The **EU Emergency Trust Fund for Stability and Addressing Root Causes of Irregular Migration and Displaced Persons in Africa** (EUTF Africa)<sup>24</sup> was set up in late 2015 with a financial allocation of EUR 1.8 billion to finance activities in twenty-three African countries crossed by major migrations routes responding to four objectives: 1) Create greater economic and employment opportunities; 2) Strengthen resilience of communities, and in particular the most vulnerable, as well as refugees and displaced; 3) Improve migration management in countries of origin, transit and destination; 4) Improve governance including conflict prevention and reinforcement of rule of law.

As in 2016, support to the resilience-related activities of the EUTF Africa is foreseen also in 2017 with a contribution of EUR 10 million. From the humanitarian perspective, the EUTF Africa provides 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 West Africa - including AGIR - and the Horn of Africa – Global Alliance.

### **2.3. East and Southern Africa, Great Lakes**

#### **Sudan and South Sudan**

In 2016, resumed violence and the spread of fighting to new parts of the country have further exacerbated the humanitarian crisis that has affected South Sudan since the eruption of the conflict at the end of 2015. The conflict is marked by grave and widespread human rights abuses by all parties, in particular against women and children. There are more than 2.5 million people displaced, out of which more than 1 million have fled to neighbouring countries whilst 200 000 have sought physical protection in UNMISS bases named Protection of Civilian's sites. Severe food insecurity is affecting about 40% of the population during the lean season. Access to food has been worsening year on year. The basic services provided by the government have collapsed.

In Sudan, in addition to recurrent natural disasters, the political, security and operating environment has continued to deteriorate in 2016 with resumption of hostilities. Peace talks between the opposition forces and the government were suspended in August 2016. Sudan is classified by ECHO as a forgotten crisis for the third consecutive year. About 15% of the population (5.8 million people) are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance. Needs are significant in all essential sectors including access to basic services and maintaining protection of civilians. The most acute needs are the result of (1) conflict-related violence and insecurity in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile leading to large scale internal displacement; (2) a constant and sustained influx of refugees mainly from South Sudan; (3) malnutrition prevalence with rates largely above-emergency thresholds. Early 2016, El Niño-induced drought affected over 2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and in the second half of the year the Government of Sudan reported more than 200 000 people affected by the floods.

The outstanding issues between Sudan and South Sudan (e.g. border demarcation, the status of the disputed area of Abyei, implementation of the 2012 cooperation agreement) remain unresolved. Insecurity and multiple conflicts prevail in both countries, where humanitarian operations face increasing challenges due to access limitations, insecurity, logistical and administrative impediments and inadequate local capacity.

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<sup>24</sup> C(2015)7293 of 20.10.2015

In Sudan, government restrictions have a severe impact on the operational capacity of aid actors. Advocacy for opening up humanitarian space and respect of humanitarian principles will therefore continue to play a key role. Relief operations have also become more difficult in South Sudan in 2016.

In 2017 ECHO will focus on protection, vulnerabilities and life-saving assistance and prioritise conflict induced needs, mostly related to displacement, and new shocks. Priority will be given to the populations at highest risk - based on objectively assessed needs – provided that a humanitarian response can be effective to reduce morbidity and mortality - in particular those of children. Only partners with demonstrated response capacity will be given consideration.

In Sudan, if access allows, the humanitarian assistance will target the most essential needs of the affected population through life-saving interventions rather than blanket assistance based on status. Across the country, the humanitarian response will unconditionally have to count on sustained and principled access, comprehensive and independent needs-assessments in order to provide a high quality response to the targeted beneficiaries. All actions will contain a protection analysis. In addition, integrated multi-sectorial responses are key to address the various needs of the affected populations.

### ***Horn of Africa***

In 2016, the Horn of Africa has experienced an overall deteriorating food security, mainly as a consequence of the El Niño phenomenon which has primarily affected Ethiopia and Northern Somalia. There has also been a substantial increase of newly arrived refugees as a consequence of the new up-surge of the South Sudan conflict. Over 23 million people are currently in immediate need of humanitarian assistance in the region, including the refugees. The refugee crisis in the region is both acute and protracted with about 1.9 million refugees, originating mainly from Somalia and South Sudan. In addition, about 2.3 million people are internally displaced in the region. The overall security situation has continued deteriorating, not only in Somalia, but also in the neighbouring countries, particularly in Kenya, reducing further the access to people in need, putting them and humanitarian workers at risk.

In 2017, ECHO will sustain its activities to forestall people sliding back into acute crisis, whilst continuing to address new urgent needs. The assistance will put special emphasis on lifesaving activities and response to the displacement crises while ensuring that the follow-up of the El Niño crisis receives appropriate attention and that the resilience of communities is not put at risk. The use of emergency preparedness and response mechanisms to provide flexibility in the response to new emergencies will continue to further strengthen cost-efficiency. ECHO will closely follow the discussions at regional level on potential return strategies and will strongly advocate for its voluntary character, especially in view of the threat of the closure of the Dadaab refugee camps. Moreover, ECHO will continue to be actively involved in the search for self-reliance solutions for protracted refugees in coordination with development partners especially when conducive conditions for return are not present.

### **Somalia**

Somalia still represents one of the most serious and complex humanitarian crises in the world. Around 5 million people remain in food security stress with almost 1.5 million people estimated to be in IPC 3 (crisis) and 4 (emergency). About 300 000 children under age 5 are

acutely malnourished. Conflict, food insecurity and drought aggravate the humanitarian situation, leading, among other things, to further displacement and the exhaustion of coping mechanisms. The conflict situation is a stalemate, with no end in sight of very high levels of insecurity. Around 1.1 million people are internally displaced in Somalia while approximately one million have taken refuge in the neighbouring countries. Restricted access and high insecurity are major challenges for aid agencies. ECHO will continue to focus on emergency response through life-saving activities mainly in the south-central regions of Somalia and support durable solutions for IDPs and returning refugees in the framework of the Durable Solution Strategy. Protection and livelihood support as well as the mainstreaming of DRR initiatives will be encouraged. This will contribute to strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable communities.

## **Ethiopia**

The consequences in Ethiopia of the El Niño weather phenomenon affecting the Great Horn of Africa and Southern Africa region are the most serious on record. The crisis, and therefore the total number of people affected, has reached its peak beginning of 2016 when 18 million people were estimated to be in need of food and cash transfers. As of September 2016, more than 17 million people are still directly affected. This not only has immediate consequences on the people, but also medium-term effects on the agricultural sector – due to the death of livestock and the loss of crops – and on the economy as a whole.

The consequences of El Niño compounded other humanitarian needs that the country is confronted with: in particular, a significant caseload of refugees from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan. Ethiopia is currently the largest refugee-hosting nation of the continent with over 740 000 refugees in need for assistance. Approximately 736 000 are internally displaced, the majority of them being protracted cases mainly caused by inter-clan/cross-border conflicts, flooding and fire, but also new cases caused by the El Niño food security crisis, encompassing both drought and floods.

A so-called "Emergency response mechanism" for Ethiopia, consisting of partners with high flexibility and full coverage of the most affected regions, will continue to be reinforced in order to improve the coverage and the timeliness of support to affected populations in emergency situations. The refugee caseloads will continue to receive life-saving assistance including potential opening of new camps, relocation of refugees to other sites and assistance to host community if the situation requires. Moreover, the impact of the drought is expected to linger for the coming years, requiring continuous support to the drought affected populations.

## **Kenya**

In 2016, recurrent food and nutrition crises continue to cause high levels of vulnerability of the population. Some 800 000 people are food insecure with the majority (70%) being the populations in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs). Internal displacements linked to insecurity and consequent limited access to basic services was experienced in these same areas thus reinforcing peoples' vulnerabilities. In 2017, ECHO is intending to slowly exit from its nutrition and resilience building initiatives in the ASALs in view of the investment made by development actors, in particular from the EU, but will continue supporting proper information sharing among INGOs on areas under tight security constraints and strengthening local disaster preparedness and response capacities especially in view of the forthcoming presidential elections. In the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps, more than 565 000 people, mainly from Somalia and South Sudan, live in extremely precarious conditions. Against the

background of the Kenyan decision to close the Dadaab refugee camp, ECHO intends to emphasise support to refugees and host communities' self-reliance by promoting together with development actors solutions and approaches that are long-term and sustainable, hence allowing refugees and host communities to benefit from one. A close attention will be given to the response to the potential new influx of South Sudanese to Kenya and the opening of a new settlement in Kakuma (Kalobeyei) and to the approach of the Kenyan Authorities on the repatriation to Somalia. The voluntary nature of return needs to be preserved in a context where a more "incentivised return" is putting pressure on the refugees to go back to Somalia while the conditions are not conducive for return in the almost complete absence of basic services and a significant insecurity.

## **Djibouti**

In 2017, ECHO will focus its support on the situation of the Somali Refugees in the Ali Addeh and Hol Hol camps through cash-based food assistance and WASH activities, as well as to the more recently arrived Yemeni refugees in Markazi camp through traditional in-kind distribution, WASH and protection services.

## **Uganda**

ECHO will continue in 2017 to focus its support to the 616,000 refugees present in Uganda, in particular the newly arrived from South Sudan while still looking at potential new arrivals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi. Uganda is likely to become the second largest African country to host refugees after Ethiopia as the outbreak of heavy fighting in South Sudan on 7 July 2016, has triggered the largest refugee influx in Uganda with more than 330 000 South Sudanese refugees – as of 1 September 2016 – since the initial influx of South Sudanese refugees into the country end of 2013. The situation is putting a lot of pressure on Uganda and its generous policy towards refugees. With refugee settlements already stretched, any further influx is likely to exceed capacity. Should restrictions on movements in South Sudan lessen, a large influx of refugees from Central Western and nearby parts of Eastern Equatoria is likely to follow. An appropriate level of response is needed to ensure uninhibited access to asylum, provision of lifesaving assistance, the effective management of reception centres and registration procedures and potential establishment of settlements in new areas. High attention to targeting of humanitarian response will be critical while the engagement of more long-term actors should be more widely promoted and advocated for in order to support the self-reliance policy promoted by Uganda and threatened by the unbalance between increasing level of humanitarian needs and the very low level of funding.

## ***Southern Africa and Indian Ocean***

The majority of the countries in Southern African and Indian Ocean region (SAIO)<sup>25</sup> are currently affected by a widespread food security crisis as a result of the El Niño phenomenon which has developed since early 2015 causing the worst drought in the last 35 years. The food crisis is particularly severe in Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, although the entire region is affected. Therefore, principal humanitarian priorities for ECHO in 2017 in the SAIO region will be to address humanitarian food assistance and nutrition needs.

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<sup>25</sup> The term Southern African and Indian Ocean Region (SAIO) is used to indicate the following countries: Angola, Botswana, Comoros Islands, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



For this ECHO will continue to focus on a) ensuring that the most vulnerable people have access to safe and nutritious food and access to nutrition treatment and b) protect and restore threatened livelihood in order to avoid detrimental coping strategies and exacerbated undernutrition and mortality rates.

The SAIO region is also exposed to various hazards ranging from floods, cyclones, drought and epidemics resulting into loss of lives, livelihood assets, economic losses and population displacement. ECHO will continue to monitor the humanitarian situation and respond in case of emerging humanitarian needs and will launch in 2017 a new phase of targeted Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programme focusing on Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique. DRR funding will support community-based approaches aiming to enhance the resilience of the hazards-exposed communities. To the extent possible, the Disaster Risk Reduction / Disaster Risk Management interventions will be implemented in close collaboration and with the involvement of national counterparts and local authorities and promote linkages with regional initiatives. These interventions will pursue durable and innovative solutions to benefits vulnerable populations by strengthening local, national and regional capacities for resilience.

In all its interventions ECHO will promote the use of innovative solutions, cash transfers, in particular the use multipurpose cash transfer (MPCT) and encourage the use of existing social protection systems and safety nets for targeting, registration and delivery of humanitarian assistance beneficiaries to avoid creation of parallel system and to improve efficiency and linkages with development programmes. This will be done for the current response to food insecurity, as well as a preparedness approach to build resilience for future emergency responses.

### **Great Lakes region**

The number of refugees has increased over the last year due to the eruption of the Burundi political crisis and the ongoing security crises in DRC, Central African Republic (CAR) and South Sudan. Since April 2015 and as of 3 October 2016, over 303 000 Burundians have sought refuge in DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. There is no sign in the Burundian political landscape indicating that the conditions would be ripe for a significant return movement in 2017; on the contrary, the refugee outflow has been constant with several thousand new arrivals every month in neighbouring countries

The prolonged crisis in CAR resulted in successive waves of refugee arrivals in the northern part of DRC (mainly Equateur province) and the Republic of Congo (RoC). At the end of August 2016, 94 632 and 28 747 refugees had been registered by UNHCR in DRC and RoC respectively. They are hosted in poor, fragile rural areas, and they compete with host communities for limited resources, thus exacerbating tensions. The most recent influx of refugees into DRC (60 000 people since early 2016, and as of 3 October 2016) was from South Sudan.

As a result of the continued violence in the region, some 825 000 refugees live in Great Lakes countries, the large majority being hosted in camps, depending exclusively on humanitarian aid for the provision of basic services and protection and with little prospects of return in the short term due to persistent volatile situations. In 2017, ECHO will focus its support on the provision of immediate multi-sectorial assistance and protection responding to the basic needs of the newly arrived refugees.

### **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

DRC continues to suffer from a complex and protracted humanitarian crisis. Congolese civilians face widespread violence (including sexual) and insecurity originating both from all armed groups and forces. Access is extremely challenging for physical and security reasons, and there is insufficient funding to cover previous and new needs in such a volatile context. Many armed groups (ranging from local defence groups to well-armed foreign groups with a political agenda) continue to operate in eastern Congo and to allegedly commit gross human rights abuses against the population but also targeting humanitarian aid workers. As a result, 1.7 million Congolese are being displaced in country. Livelihoods are jeopardised by population displacement, insecurity prevents access to land, and vulnerable populations do not have adequate access to water, sanitation and medical care. There is no reason to believe that the overall situation will improve in 2017, with a period of potential increased instability ahead of elections. In areas not affected by conflict, malnutrition rates are often above emergency thresholds as a result of economic difficulties and instability. The whole country is regularly subject to epidemics (measles, malaria, cholera and yellow fever) due to the poor health and sanitation conditions.

In 2017, in DRC, ECHO will address urgent needs arising from population displacements in conflict zones and life-threatening situations in non-conflict areas. A particular attention will be given to the protection of civilians affected by conflict. ECHO will support emergency preparedness to ensure swift response capacity in such a volatile context. Other regions affected by epidemics and acute malnutrition will also be assisted strictly respecting emergency thresholds and taking into account local capacities.

Activities will be closely coordinated with development cooperation instruments, whenever possible. Advocacy for the defence of humanitarian space and respect of humanitarian principles and IHL will be maintained, along with support for humanitarian coordination and logistics, and the provision of the ECHO Flight service to access remote areas.

## **2.4. Eastern Neighbourhood**

### **Turkey**

The impact of the Syria regional crisis on Turkey is unprecedented and will continue to represent a major challenge in 2017. With over 3 million registered refugees in 2016, out of which 2.7 million are Syrians, Turkey is the host to the largest refugee population in the world. These numbers are unlikely to substantially decrease in 2017. The Government of Turkey has established 26 refugee camps hosting over 260 000 registered refugees. The vast majority of Syrian refugees – over 90% – live outside of camps. More than 8.5% of registered asylum seekers are estimated to be Iraqis or Afghans, with others coming mainly from Iran but also Somalia and a variety of other countries. Non-Syrian registered asylum seekers are believed to represent 60% – or less – of people entitled to seek asylum.

Despite the progressive nature of the legal framework and the assistance made available for refugees in Turkey, the humanitarian needs outside-of-camp are acute and mostly unmet. The situation of those refugees has worsened over time as savings and household resources are consumed and families have only limited access to sufficient incomes, or to consistent and meaningful assistance. Poverty engenders growing risk of exploitation, forcing families into negative coping mechanisms. The refugees' basic needs are however mostly covered in camps.

In order to increase the support and financial assistance provided by the EU to Turkey in the context of the refugee crisis, an EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan (JAP) was adopted at the European Council on 25 October 2015. The JAP is part of a comprehensive cooperation agenda based on shared responsibility and mutual commitments. On 24 November 2015, a Commission Decision on the coordination of the EU and of EU Member States actions established the Facility for the Refugees in Turkey (the Facility) with a view to assist Turkey in addressing the immediate humanitarian and development needs of the refugees and their host communities for an amount of EUR 3 billion for 2016-2017<sup>26</sup>. The Steering Committee of the Facility, consisting of the Commission and EU Member States, has agreed to allocate a significant part of the budget to humanitarian assistance.

Out of the total EUR 3 billion coordinated under the Facility in 2016-2017, the envelope for humanitarian assistance amounts to a minimum of EUR 1 billion. The Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) constitutes the main vehicle for humanitarian assistance under the Facility and the HIP and will ensure delivery of assistance in a predictable, dignified, cost-effective and efficient manner and create incentives for the stabilisation of the most vulnerable refugees. This ground-breaking monthly cash-transfer system via an electronic card will cover the basic needs (food, shelter, etc.) of up to one million refugees. The ESSN has been developed in line with the existing Turkish social system and in close coordination with the Turkish authorities, in order to ensure its sustainability.

In 2017, ECHO will continue to implement its humanitarian response coordinated through the Facility and will maintain a clear focus on the following elements: 1) The further implementation of the ESSN, in order to increase the number of beneficiaries and enlarge its geographical scope; 2) Provision of specialised protection services; 3) Improving access to quality specialised health services, in complementarity with the interventions of the EU longer-term instruments; 4) Improving access to quality education through support to non-formal education and enabling education schemes, in complementarity with the interventions of the EU longer-term instruments 5) Emergency response and preparedness; and 5) Strategic coordination and information management.

## **Ukraine**

After more than two years since the start of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine, the security situation remains volatile. Ceasefire violations have continued since the adoption of the Package of Measures for the implementation of the Minsk Agreements on 12 February 2015. Conflict activity since the summer of 2016 has significantly increased, as evidenced by record-high numbers of incidents, with casualties among both combatants and civilians.

The conflict has had significant humanitarian consequences and led to considerable displacement. Over 5.2 million people are affected by the conflict, out of which 3.1 million are considered to be in need of humanitarian assistance. According to the Ministry of Social Policy, the number of IDPs has risen to 1.7 million, while over 1.4 million refugees have fled to neighbouring countries, mainly to Russia and Belarus. The most vulnerable population is mainly living in Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCA) and in areas alongside both sides of the contact line, being subject to continuous ceasefire violations and a volatile security environment.

Due to the upcoming winter, winterized shelter and access to basic needs and services are of urgent concern for vulnerable populations living in these areas. Furthermore, the supply of

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<sup>26</sup> See footnote 10

basic services (water, power, energy supply etc.) is often disrupted. Given the fluidity of the conflict, it is expected that the humanitarian situation will remain unchanged or even further deteriorate.

The situation is characterised by shrinking humanitarian space in the NGCA, as the conditions imposed by the de-facto "authorities" hamper the operations of most humanitarian organisations. Moreover, freedom of movement and humanitarian access continue to be restricted due to on-going fighting, security measures and Government-enforced access and movement. Regulations imposed by the Government of Ukraine on banning commercial activities from and to the NGCA, together with the suspension of State social assistance since February 2016 to a significant number of displaced persons in the NGCA, have placed many at risk of increased poverty and vulnerability.

ECHO will continue to advocate for improved humanitarian access to the crisis-affected populations and will focus its intervention on helping the most vulnerable people affected by the conflict. Focus will be on the populations in disputed areas ('buffer zone'), both under Government and de facto "authorities" control, directly affected by the fighting, and the additional resident populations in areas beyond the control of the Government of Ukraine.

ECHO will continue to provide funding in the sectors of protection, food assistance, shelter and Non-Food Items, health/psycho-social services and WASH. In Ukraine, ECHO promotes the use of multipurpose cash assistance when and wherever possible, considered as one of the most effective means to address income gaps so that beneficiaries can reach a minimum subsistence level.

## **Western Balkans**

Following the EU-Turkey joint statement of 18 March 2016 the number of refugees reaching the Western Balkans, mainly the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia, has considerably diminished. However, a small but steady flow of new irregular arrivals continues to be reported in countries along the Western Balkans route. This flow has slightly increased in August-September 2016.

The situation is fragmented with multi-entry points and irregular arrivals in terms of numbers; refugees enter Serbia transiting from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria to reach mainly the Hungarian border. There is a growing number of stranded migrants especially at the Serbian/Hungarian border and a growing population in the reception centres (4 400 in August 2016, according to UNHCR). The numbers are based on estimates, as there is an important number of non-registered arrivals, as well as illegal transit to Hungary, supported by smugglers.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will remain a transit country, whose situation vis a vis refugees is so far determined by the situation at Hungary/Serbia border.

On the basis of current numbers, no massive influx of refugees is expected in 2017. However, any increase of departures of refugees from Turkey will most likely lead to an increased number of refugees in the Western Balkans.

Short-term humanitarian assistance remains the priority, including primary health care services, water, and food. Also NFI<sup>27</sup> assistance to improve hygiene and sanitary conditions is needed, in particular for women and children. Specific attention will need to be paid to safe temporary reception/accommodation facilities for stranded refugees.

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<sup>27</sup> Non-food items.

There are also humanitarian needs regarding the protection of refugees and asylum seekers stranded in Serbia, including psycho-social support and assistance to restore family links.

## **South Caucasus**

The region is highly exposed to natural hazards, including earthquakes, landslides, floods, mudflows, droughts, avalanches and extreme temperatures. Natural hazards, combined with the high vulnerability of the population and inadequate local capacities, render DRR an important component of ECHO's intervention in the region. In some cases, ECHO remains the only donor supporting DRR activities.

Under the 2017 action plan, DRR interventions will be mainly concentrated in Georgia and Armenia, considering factors as vulnerability in terms of risks of natural disasters measured, existing response capacity and the impact and added value of DRR interventions. The 2017 action plan seeks to consolidate the results achieved through DIPECHO's previous cycles in order to reduce the vulnerability and contribute to resilience building and a culture of safety of the communities and institutions. The activities will focus on interventions in the area of DRR and on increasing the awareness, preparedness and response capacities and general resilience to natural disasters, at community, national and regional levels.

## **2.5. Middle East**

### **Syria Regional Crisis**

Now entering its sixth year, the conflict in Syria continues to take a drastic toll on Syrian people's lives and drive an unprecedented humanitarian and protection crisis: some 13.5 million people are now in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, including 6 million children out of whom 40 per cent are out of school. Half of the country's pre-crisis population has been forced to flee from their homes, with a third of the remaining population now displaced within Syria and over 4.8 million people seeking refuge in neighbouring countries and beyond. Since January 2016, over 900 000 people – an average of 5 000 per day – have been newly displaced and the number of people unable to meet their basic food needs has increased by 6% (from 6.3 million to 6.7 million). 1.7 million IDPs live in camps, improvised settlements and collective centres and the hundreds of thousands concentrated at Syria's borders suffer from ever-growing humanitarian needs.

Despite the relentless efforts of the humanitarian community to deliver assistance to people in need across Syria, critical gaps remain. 125 sub-districts out of a total of 272 remain underserved and 17 sub-districts were not reached at all in 2016. Since January 2016, thanks to the commitment and effort of the humanitarian task force of the International Syria Support Group, in which the EU plays a relevant role, 400 000 people living in besieged areas and 1.16 million people living in hard to reach areas received some kind of humanitarian assistance but not on a regular basis.

In addition, since late January 2016, intensified fighting in Aleppo has demanded a scaled-up emergency response, while the escalation of hostilities has created severe access constraints and forced humanitarian actors to periodically suspend day-to-day services and/or adjust modalities of delivery. Humanitarian access to ISIL-held areas and the protection of civilians also remain a huge challenge.

ECHO will continue to adapt its humanitarian intervention to the ever-changing situation in Syria. The 2017 ECHO funding will focus on a multi-sectorial life-saving response across Syria and especially in hard to reach, besieged, prone to displacement and underserved areas

in sectors such as protection, health, wash and first line response to quickly address new emergencies and the needs of new IDPs.

The Syria crisis continues impacting massively on neighbouring countries. Their social, economic and structural capacity to deal with the considerable number of refugees has been stretched to the limits.

**Jordan** is one of the countries most affected by the Syria crisis, hosting more than 630 000 Syrian refugees, equivalent to around 10% of its population. Social tensions between refugees and host communities increase as a result of the competition for services and resources. The closing of the north-eastern border with Syria (the so-called Berm) after the terrorist attack of June 2016 has left more than 70 000 people stranded at the border in a desert area in appalling conditions (August 2016). The Jordan Compact presented at the London conference in February 2016 sets out a series of major commitments aimed at improving the resilience of refugee and host communities, focusing mainly on livelihoods and education. ECHO will continue delivering humanitarian assistance to refugees, with a particular focus on life-saving operations at the Berm and step up protection programs and advocacy.

**Lebanon**, which hosts one of the highest numbers of refugees per capita in the world, is confronted with a long standing political stalemate, serious economic and social instability and an increasingly restrictive government policy vis-à-vis refugee, further shrinking their protection space. Main drivers of the increasing vulnerability of refugees lay on the unsustainable socio-economic conditions, heightened protection threats, prescriptive legal regulations that further drive refugees into illegality and the spiralling down of their basic living conditions.

Based on the evolution of the situation and increased protection concerns, ECHO response will keep focusing on life-saving assistance, providing basic protection, health, housing and water services to the most vulnerable refugees.

**Egypt**, with an increasing inflow of new arrivals, new registrations and asylum applications in 2016, provides refuge to more than 184 000 registered refugees and asylum seekers, including some 115 000 Syrians, in a context of dynamic and complex mixed migration. Despite formal access to public education and health services, multiple barriers negatively affect Syrian refugees' capacity to benefit from them. As a result, most of the registered Syrian refugees live below the poverty line in overcrowded and impoverished urban and semi-urban settings.

ECHO will strengthen protection support, for the most vulnerable refugees, including child protection and enhance access to emergency health and education services, whilst boosting oversight on new dynamics and trends, notably the refugees-migration nexus.

## **Yemen**

Before the beginning of the military intervention of a Saudi-led Coalition of Arab States against the Houthi/General people Congress (GPC) forces, Yemen was already the poorest country of the Middle East and North Africa region, faced with widespread food insecurity and malnutrition, poor health and healthcare, exacerbated by structural underdevelopment and widespread poverty. Yemen has now turned into the number one humanitarian crisis in absolute numbers. Out of a total population of around 26 million, 21.2 million people (i.e. 82% of the total population) are estimated to be in need of some form of assistance. The L3 Emergency Response was extended twice, in February and in August 2016 respectively.

Over the past year and a half, the conflict has spread to 20 out of 22 governorates, frontlines shifted, Islamist forces (including AQAP and ISIL) expanded, public services further deteriorated and the severity of needs intensified across all sectors. Although the total number

of people living in displacement decreased in the last months, this is causing new emerging needs for the returned population. While the situation remains volatile, the protection of refugees and migrants from the Horn of Africa remains a specific concern. As the last round of UN-led negotiations reached a stall and hostilities are escalating across the country, the humanitarian situation is likely to further deteriorate. In a context of collapsing economy, widespread disruption or full paralysis of basic public services, the population will continue to rely heavily on humanitarian aid.

In 2017 ECHO will continue to apply a multi-sector approach to the conflict, focusing mainly on life-saving activities. Interventions will integrate health and nutrition, food assistance, food security and livelihood support, including multi-purpose cash, water, sanitation, hygiene promotion, shelter, NFIs, protection and education.

Given the scale of the needs, priority will be given to the most vulnerable groups and people most at risk of violence, abuse and exploitation, including internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants trapped in Yemen, and those affected by the pre-existing health, nutrition and food crises, whose situation has deteriorated further due to the conflict. As the conflict is no longer limited to specific locations and frontlines are constantly shifting, the response will need to be emergency-focussed and geographically flexible. Given the constraints facing humanitarian access and delivery, ECHO will encourage further advocacy for humanitarian principles and respect of IHL by parties to the conflict.

## **Palestine**

Palestinian refugees and local populations within Gaza and the West Bank continue to suffer from the occupation policy. The number of demolitions and forced evictions, movement restrictions affecting access to land and to basic services, and violence against Palestinians has escalated throughout 2016. There is no sign that this will not continue in 2017, resulting in humanitarian needs.

2017 will be the year of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Israel's occupation of the West Bank. The expansion of Israeli settlements, particularly in the Area C of the West Bank, is considered illegal under International Law. It has contributed to an increase in demolitions of private Palestinian property, deterioration of access to basic services, increase in settler violence, and restrictions on movement and access, which all lead to forcible displacement.

2017 will represent as well the 10th anniversary of the blockade of the Gaza Strip. The Gaza Strip has suffered three wars in eight years. Periodic shocks – whether internal or external – spark off humanitarian crises, as witnessed during Israel's military operation in the summer of 2014, which had a massive and unprecedented humanitarian impact. 65 000 people remain displaced by end 2016, and are living with host families, in rented apartments, prefabricated units, tents and makeshift shelters, or in the rubble of their previous homes. The blockade translates into a situation of continuous economic de-development with consequent increase of vulnerabilities. Unless normal movement of people and goods is allowed to resume there will be no fundamental change in the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

A traditional sectoral approach of relief assistance alone is insufficient to protect communities from IHL violations. Therefore in 2017 humanitarian assistance in Palestine will continue to focus on the humanitarian mandate through increasing emphasis on protection and emergency concerns, namely emergency preparedness and response, humanitarian advocacy and support to humanitarian coordination. Close coordination within Commission services (in particular between ECHO and DG NEAR) and with the European External Action Service (EEAS) will continue to ensure programmatic complementarity between relief and long-term operations.

## **Iraq crisis**

After decades of violence, Iraq continues to suffer multiple crises, humanitarian, political, security and economic. In 2017, the country will enter the fourth year of its latest armed conflict, with large-scale humanitarian consequences. All indicators point to a dramatically worsening of the situation in the near future, with the intensification of the military campaign against the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). In August 2016, the United Nations (UN) extended the Level 3 Emergency status of this crisis, for an additional six months, due to current and foreseen massive humanitarian needs, including due to the Mosul emergency.

Fighting is anticipated to further increase displacement and limit access to lifesaving goods by most vulnerable populations affected by the conflict. In the worst case scenario, estimated additional 2.16 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) are expected, as result of the military offensive to retake Mosul, by end of 2016. Already now, 10 million people require urgent humanitarian support in Iraq, a country of 34 million, comprising 3.4 million IDPs and 250 000 Syrian refugees. The conflict might involve prolonged sieges, strangling access to lifesaving aid for civilians in ISIL/AOG controlled areas and cause serious protection issues.

Iraqis who will be displaced end of 2016 and in 2017 will, undoubtedly, face more difficulties in reaching safety and suffer stronger restrictions in their freedom of movement, including forced encampment and strict security screening procedures, due to their increased perception as ISIL supporters. Collective advocacy efforts will be more and more important to ensure that minimum conditions of assistance and protection of civilians are guaranteed during security screening processes, in accordance with national and international applicable norms.

Ensuring protection of all civilians, respect of IHL, in and after the conduct of hostilities, and principled aid are and will continue to be of the utmost importance in Iraq, during all military campaigns, and, specifically, in the Mosul operation. This is crucial not to fuel further tensions among communities and sow the seeds of a stable and peaceful Iraq.

As of 7 September 2016, the Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) is funded at 53%. The total humanitarian pledge, at the Washington pledging event for Iraq (20 July) amounts to USD 413 million. This is at the moment the only available funding for covering the HRP deficit, the UN Mosul Flash Appeal (USD 284 million) and Mosul crisis response (estimated between USD 142 million to 1.8 billion). This leaves an enormous gap on the coverage of the emergency, lifesaving needs of those most vulnerable Iraqis.

In 2017, ECHO will continue advocating for the protection and humanitarian access for all populations in need, for a principled humanitarian response, as well as supporting lifesaving programmes in the food, health, shelter, core relief items, wash and emergency education sectors. Transversal integration of protection and strictly needs-based aid will be encouraged, to mitigate the consequences of this conflict and the rupture of Iraq's social fabric. ECHO will also continue supporting most cost effective aid modalities (e.g. cash, integrated aid systems) and coordinate with other funding instruments for a comprehensive response to this crisis, with a greater impact. If sufficient and adequate support and protection are not provided to the people in need in the country, in safe locations, the crisis in Iraq could become the main issue for the EU in terms of migration, in the near future.

## **2.6. Asia, Latin America, Caribbean, Pacific**

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

#### **Afghanistan**



Almost four decades of conflict have caused widespread destruction to the social and economic fabric of the country, eroding the resilience of the population and have resulted in a protracted IDP and refugee crisis. This is now being compounded by an increase in violence and a sudden influx of Afghans returning from Pakistan thus threatening an increasing humanitarian crisis.

As the conflict further expands, the number of IDPs has increased to around 1.5 million. The number of civilian casualties in 2016 is on course to surpass 2015 and become the highest on record since 2002. The protracted conflict has resulted in 2.5 million registered Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan and an equal number of undocumented refugees without refugee status and associated protection. It is expected that over half a million of these refugees and undocumented Afghans will have returned to Afghanistan by the end of 2016, with process set to continue next year. This, together with the IDP issue, will put increasing pressure on services and resources, particularly in urban areas often considered safer and more desirable for resettlement, thereby producing an environment that will be less conducive to sustaining vulnerable returnees. ECHO will thus not only have to continue but indeed increase its support for life-saving multi-sector interventions to conflict-affected populations, as well as healthcare provision in areas not otherwise covered.

At the same time, the on-going insecurity in parts of FATA<sup>28</sup> in Pakistan does not allow the 200 000 Pakistani refugees to return to their place of origin, requiring ECHO to continue its supports multi-sector assistance to these population.

The complexity of the conflict, the blurring of lines between humanitarian aid and military actors, insecurity, weak government agencies, the remoteness and inaccessibility of vulnerable communities, pose significant challenges to the provision of principled humanitarian aid. ECHO supports coordination, safety and security and air services as a pre-requisite for more effective aid delivery.

Afghanistan is also regularly affected by natural disasters, predominantly floods and drought, affecting on average over 400 000 people each year. It will be important to maintain life-saving multi-sector support capacity for these populations, while also promoting disaster preparedness.

The Brussels Conference on Afghanistan in October 2016 has secured USD 15.2 billion worth pledges for the development of Afghanistan until 2020. It was considered a success, confirming the international community's commitment to the country and paving the way for LRRD.

## **Pakistan**

The combined effects of man-made and natural disasters in Pakistan, as well as economic and political fragility have led to the depletion of the resilience of millions of people over the last decade. Pakistan is also subject to the spill-over effects of conflict in its neighbourhood. Nonetheless, whereas humanitarian assistance for disaster and conflict affected communities continues to be needed, some issues are showing a more positive trend and reduced needs.

Since 2008, Pakistan's north-western areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA had experienced major population displacements as a result of insecurity, insurgency and military operations against armed non-state actors. Over 1.5 million people were displaced due to conflict and insecurity. However, over the last year military operations have attenuated allowing for significant returns of IDPs. The Government expects most IDPS to have returned by the end of the 2016. There will be re-integration and rehabilitation needs in the areas of

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<sup>28</sup> Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

return but these will be carried out by the government with the support of development donors. As a result this issue will require less humanitarian input in 2017.

Pakistan continues to host over 1.6 million registered and an estimated 1.2 million unregistered Afghan refugees who require international assistance and protection. However in the course of 2016 some 500 000 Afghans will have returned to Afghanistan with the encouragement of the Pakistani and Afghan governments and it is the political will of both governments for this process to continue in 2017. Whereas the reducing caseload in Pakistan will lead to reduced needs, the return process will require increased resources, especially as there are concerns that the current process is not fully compliant with internationally accepted norms. Nonetheless most of the assistance consequent to these returns will be required on the Afghan side of the operation.

The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 15.1% in Pakistan has been classified as critical according to the WHO and represents one of the highest world-wide. Nutritional vulnerabilities remain particularly critical in Sindh and Baluchistan. However, with development actors embarking on a comprehensive programme to tackle the structural aspects of the malnutrition in Pakistan and notably in Sindh, a phasing-out of relevant ECHO activities can be envisaged. Pakistan is prone to regular natural disasters. ECHO will continue to assist with the mainstreaming of existing DRR tools and procedures into local and national policy.

## **Iran**

Iran is currently hosting 951 142 documented Afghan refugees (Amayesh card holders), 620 000 Iranian visa holders (legal economic migrants), and between 2 and 3 million undocumented Afghans mostly living in peri-urban settings. Some 800 000 Afghan nationals are severely vulnerable and in need of assistance.

Iran recently committed itself to open up the national health insurance scheme to documented Afghan refugees on the same basis as its own citizens. In addition, all foreign children irrespective of their legal status have also recently been permitted to enrol in the national education system. In 2017, ECHO will continue to concentrate on assisting vulnerable refugees. The main sectors covered include food assistance, health, voluntary repatriation, protection and education.

ECHO will continue providing humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable regardless their status.

## **Central Asia**

Central Asia is exposed to a number of natural hazards, including earthquakes, landslides, and floods. These natural hazards, combined with the high vulnerability of the population and inadequate local capacities, have made Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) the core component of ECHO's intervention in the region. In some countries, ECHO has been the only donor supporting DRR activities. On-going programmes were funded from the 2015 budget and will conclude over the next months.

In view of the considerable progress in DRR made by most countries in the region, the 2017 action plan, will concentrate on completing the work-programmes in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. ECHO will also continue its support to the regional Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR) based in Almaty.

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

Over the last 10 years, the region has been the most disaster-affected in the world in terms of scale, recurrence severity of and number of people affected by disasters. In 2017, ECHO will continue to response to man-made and natural disasters in Bangladesh and Myanmar) and to man-made disasters in the Philippines. ECHO will maintain its support for DRR in some of the ASEAN member states, as well as in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. In what concerns ASEAN States, priority will be given to actions supporting the implementation of the AADMER Work plan 2016-2020, which can cover one or several countries. Urban DRR in the Philippines and Vietnam will be considered in particular. In South Asia, ECHO will focus on: (1) earthquake preparedness, with an emphasis on high population density urban areas in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal); (2) reinforcing institutional capacities; (3) school based DP and (4) preparedness for emergency response.

## **Bangladesh**

ECHO will continue to deliver basic life-saving humanitarian aid to the unregistered Rohingya population and the host community in Cox Bazar, which have been included in the ECHO list of forgotten crises for several years. This encompasses protection, the treatment of acute malnutrition and the provision of basic health and water services in and around the informal camps and includes the most vulnerable populations living in the surrounding area, to the extent that access is granted. There is also a need to address shelter rehabilitation. The main protection issue is lack of legal status which, if addressed, could go so far in rectifying many of the challenges. In parallel, discussions will continue with key stakeholders to promote a durable political solution to this protracted crisis.

Bangladesh has been designated an EU resilience flagship country. The Resilience roadmap reinforces the linkage between relief, rehabilitation and development in two regions (Southwest water-logged areas and Chittagong Hills Tracts) and focus on food security and nutrition, using the Joint Humanitarian Development Framework. Consequently, ECHO is now exiting its support for these two crises. The Chittagong Hills Tracts is still hit by sporadic political violence and the EU plays an important role, advocating with the Government of Bangladesh for access and programmatic support.

Bangladesh is a highly disaster prone country and particularly vulnerable to cyclones and earthquakes, hence ECHO will continue to fund DRR projects, with a new focus on urban earthquake preparedness.

## **Myanmar/Burma**

In 2017, 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 1 million people are in need of assistance. ECHO will also continue to address the humanitarian needs generated by the cumulative impact of recent floods and to finance 'Education in Emergencies'-type of interventions aiming at supporting education for conflict and violence affected children and youth.

In Rakhine State, the Government has organised limited returns and/or resettlement of some 20 000 people, while 120 000 remain segregated in detention camps in appalling conditions, since the 2012 inter-communal violence. Although the democratic transition and the newly created Advisory Commission on Rakhine open new opportunities, the humanitarian consequences of violations of human rights against more than 800 000 stateless Rohingya living in the northern Rakhine townships remain a matter of utmost concern. The continued

state of emergency and the severe movement restrictions negatively impact their access to basic services and livelihood. Albeit nowadays in a limited number, individuals from these communities continue to risk embarking in dangerous migration routes via the Andaman Sea and by land. In Kachin and Shan States, the conflict has displaced more than 100 000 people since 2011. Fighting continued in 2016, causing new displacements. Acute needs remain unaddressed, notably for the 53 000 IDPs in areas outside government control. Restricted access to populations in need of humanitarian assistance is a major challenge for the relief response. The 2016 monsoon has displaced more than 500 000 people.

ECHO can also support information management and coordination, while protection, DRR and attention to specific vulnerabilities and gender/age issues will be mainstreamed. Support for the repatriation of refugees from camps in Thailand and resettlement of IDPs within Myanmar/Burma will be envisaged, in coordination with development actors, if the situation is conducive for safe and voluntary return.

## **The Philippines**

ECHO will focus on the needs of the conflict affected populations in Mindanao targeting the most vulnerable IDPs in central and northern Mindanao, Zamboanga and Basilan/Sulu. Protection is the most acute humanitarian need alongside food assistance, nutrition, health, water, sanitation and hygiene and education. It is important to improve the IDPs' resilience to withstand repeated displacements and reduce their vulnerability. ECHO will continue to fund 'Education in Emergencies'-type of interventions aiming at supporting access for education for conflict and violence affected children and youth. The conflict in Mindanao has been included in the ECHO list of forgotten crises. Advocacy both in country and externally, will be pursued to highlight the humanitarian consequences of this forgotten crisis.

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

### **Central America**

Successive shocks over the last years, exacerbated by the El Niño droughts and the coffee rust, have seriously deteriorated the food security of most vulnerable populations living at subsistence level. An estimated 2.5 million people are severely to moderately food insecure in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. The combination of high exposure to hazards, high levels of poverty and extreme levels of violence are eroding coping capacities, leading to recurrent emergency situations. Climate change and rapid unplanned urbanisation exacerbate vulnerability. ECHO will support preparedness and resilience-building.

### **South America**

South America is exposed to a variety of hazards, and ECHO's disaster preparedness and DRR activities aim to strengthen local, national and regional response and coordination capacities. Based on the achievements of previous interventions, actions will aim at further strengthening and replication of best practices for ownership and institutionalisation by the authorities. To this end, close coordination with local, national, and regional institutions will be maintained. Following the exit of ECHO from Argentina, Brazil and Chile, focal countries for an ECHO intervention may include Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay, Colombia, and Venezuela depending on the evolution of the situation on the ground.

## Colombia

Continued humanitarian assistance to displaced people in Colombia will be reviewed in the light of developments concerning the peace agreement between the Government and FARC (the main of several armed groups), which has not been validated by the public referendum held on 02 October, 2016. While the peace agreement is an opportunity to end a conflict which has lasted more than 50 years, killed 220 000 and displaced about 7 million since 1985, violence continues to generate humanitarian needs. Up to 11 000 people are still displaced per month, including to neighbouring countries such as Venezuela and Ecuador. ECHO support will focus on most vulnerable affected populations who do not receive assistance, recently displaced and rural communities facing restrictions on movement and/or access to basic goods and services. Particular attention will be paid to most vulnerable groups; female-headed households, children, elderly, indigenous and Afro-Colombians. In Ecuador and Venezuela, ECHO will provide assistance and protection to Colombians in need of international protection and to recognised refugees. ECHO will aim to link humanitarian initiatives with peace-building programmes in conflict affected areas. ECHO will contribute to the Trust Fund established to support implementation of the peace agreement.

## Caribbean

The Caribbean experiences multiple and recurrent natural hazards, mostly hurricanes, storms, flooding and droughts, the latter intensified by El Niño in 2015-16. ECHO will continue its support to Disaster Risk Reduction and preparedness, and the strengthening of resilience, building on the achievements of previous interventions. Cooperation will continue with disaster management institutions at local, national and regional level to further promote institutionalisation and sharing of best practices, notably in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, with drought and epidemic preparedness as focal areas.

### 2.7. Worldwide intervention

Humanitarian aid operations to be financed by ECHO under the worldwide intervention (outside the EU) aims to provide humanitarian assistance for response and disaster preparedness to populations affected by disasters, where a small scale response is adequate, including through the IFRC DREF<sup>29</sup>, and to populations affected by epidemic outbreaks. Worldwide intervention also refers to transport activities through the ECHO Flight service.

#### 2.7.1. *Small Scale response to disasters*

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 often occur in remote or isolated areas and rarely attract international attention. In addition, in the context of larger disasters, even in countries with relatively developed disaster management capacity, there are sometimes gaps in the national response, i.e. needs that are not covered due to social inequality, physical isolation, and under-reporting of events or inadequate local capacity. 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. Where appropriate, actions funded also aim at enhancing the most vulnerable populations' resilience and strengthening the capacity of local communities and authorities to respond to disasters.

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<sup>29</sup> See section 3.7.2 below.

### 2.7.2. *Support to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)*

Most small-scale emergencies are responded to at local or national level. Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies, supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies (IFRC), are often best placed to provide an immediate response, being rooted in the local community and mobilising community members as volunteers. 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 for which an appeal is unlikely to be launched.

### 2.7.3. *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. 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.

The implementation of the above three worldwide interventions will contribute to the fulfilment of providing 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.

### 2.7.4. *ECHO Flight*

In 2017, ECHO aims to improve the conditions for delivering humanitarian aid by supporting transport services to ensure that aid is accessible to beneficiaries.

ECHO Flight is a vital service for most humanitarian partner organisations operating in some regions of Africa, as it would simply not be possible to implement many humanitarian projects without this service. ECHO Flight aims to open up humanitarian access by providing a dedicated, efficient, safe and cost-effective humanitarian air transport services to remote locations that would otherwise be cut off from the rest of the world. ECHO Flight facilitates partners' humanitarian response and improves the quality of humanitarian operations by allowing more frequent monitoring and evaluation missions. Field staff productivity is increased because rotations can be organised to enable staff to rest and recuperate on a regular basis. Moreover, the capacity to carry out emergency evacuations by air is for many organisations a prerequisite for the continued implementation of their projects. ECHO Flight directly supports between 300 and 350 projects in the DRC, Kenya and Mali. In addition, ECHO Flight Kenya travels close to the Somali and Ethiopian border, which allows humanitarian aid workers to access these two countries. ECHO Flight transports more than 2 000 passengers and 20 tonnes of cargo per month.

## **2.8. Complementary and thematic activities**

### *2.8.1. Enhanced Response Capacity*

In 2017 ECHO will contribute to addressing the increasing gap between humanitarian needs and response capacity by reinforcing the capacity of the humanitarian system to prepare, assess, analyse and respond to humanitarian crises.

The capacity of humanitarian actors to respond to the ever-growing needs has been stretched to the limit. Meeting this challenge is not only a question of increasing financial resources, but also of improving tools, knowledge, coordination and preparedness. With the Enhanced Response Capacity (ERC), ECHO has a unique tool at its disposal to support global, and system relevant, capacity building initiatives. This will ultimately benefit the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian operations.

For 2017-18, capacity building will focus on the humanitarian system, governance and coordination, the implementation of the commitments made during the WHS including the Grand Bargain as well as innovative approaches in a number of priority areas.

In terms of humanitarian system architecture, governance and leadership, the IASC Transformative Agenda has led to considerable progress, also thanks to support provided through ECHO's ERC. Nevertheless, while coordination mechanisms are in place in many contexts, more needs to be done to ensure that coordination, both within sectors and between sectors, is consistently effective on country level immediately in sudden onset crisis as well as throughout protracted crisis.

During the World Humanitarian Summit, ECHO was able to showcase initiatives funded under ERC as being ahead of the curve, compared to many other donors and implementing organisations. In order to further the role of the EU as reference donor, ECHO will focus the Enhanced Response Capacity 2017-18 on the follow-up of WHS and especially Grand Bargain commitments.

In addition, ECHO seeks to promote innovative ways of working and new approaches that will enable a more efficient humanitarian response to counter the evolving nature and increasing scale of humanitarian needs. While some innovative approaches in humanitarian aid have been identified and developed by a number of traditional and non-traditional actors, more needs to be done to carefully and ethically test these approaches in practice, disseminate and generate evidence and, if proven effective, roll-out and mainstream in the humanitarian community's work.

### *2.8.2. Policy Support*

An increasingly complex global context, including a large diversity of humanitarian actors and approaches, calls for continued development and mainstreaming of policies and operational guidance to improve coherence, quality and efficiency in meeting the needs of beneficiaries. This applies both directly to EU humanitarian funding and, more broadly, to global approaches to humanitarian action.

ECHO is therefore financing specific humanitarian expertise and networks in order to contribute to the quality and coherence of policy initiatives in a number of focus sectors with the overall objective of strengthening the effectiveness of humanitarian response.

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

In 2017 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 the ECHO, on behalf of the Commission, and its partners in delivering relief assistance to people affected by humanitarian crises. Communication actions in 2017 will also contribute, where appropriate, to the corporate communication of the Commission, in particular regarding the EU's role in the world (A stronger global actor) as well as regarding the situation of displaced populations (Towards a new policy on migration).

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 impartial, 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 ECHO will thus fully integrate this imperative. Communicating the EU's response to major ongoing and sudden onset 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, television programmes, events, integrated communications campaigns and strategic action with humanitarian partners on key campaigning issues.

### 2.8.4. *Training Initiative NOHA*

The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid acknowledges that the promotion of training activities should be part of an overall approach to reinforce global aid. Moreover, the Action Plan of the Consensus commits the European Union to the "*reinforcement of EU training provision for humanitarian professionals and other actors linked to the humanitarian response...*" to contribute to an "*improved ... response to humanitarian crises*" and to achieve improved accountability to aid recipients. ECHO is committed to the implementation of those principles which underpin the vision of the Union.

The Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA) has been a partner of ECHO since 1993, assisting ECHO actively in promoting the professionalism in the humanitarian field. NOHA is a network of 12 universities at European level which provides education (teaching and research) and training in humanitarian action. NOHA produces 130 Masters Graduates each year.

Over the years, the Commission has increasingly shifted the focus of the network to the provision of other educational products with added value for the humanitarian aid environment.

Where NOHA was once viewed as a source of postgraduate students, the Network is increasingly functioning as an educational platform, informing the humanitarian debate and policy formulation in the European Union, in particular in the Commission.



In 2017, NOHA will, amongst other things, consolidate its global strategy in particular in South East-Asia and the Middle East.

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

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

##### **Field Network**

The field network of 48 field offices in over 40 countries is considered as one of ECHO's main key strengths. 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 basic role of 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 the humanitarian needs situation in the field and its 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, adapted to needs and acting through an appropriate resource, logistics and security management.

The field network is therefore of crucial importance in helping to enhance the impact of humanitarian aid to beneficiaries and in improving ECHO's ability, on behalf of the Commission, to determine priorities for the use of this aid. The presence of technical assistance in the field, ready to intervene immediately in humanitarian crises, substantially increases the Commission's rapid reaction capacity and the introduction and monitoring of aid programmes financed.

##### **Relations with partners**

ECHO implements its humanitarian aid mandate by funding projects proposed by around 200 partners. They include European non-governmental organisations, United Nations agencies, other international organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Organisation for Migration, and specialised agencies from Member States.

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.

ECHO is also committed to improving the overall quality and coordination of the humanitarian system's response. ECHO supports capacity-building for its partners, whether international organisations or NGOs, to enable them to respond quickly and efficiently to emergencies.

### **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 strategies and on responses to specific crisis situations features regularly in the agendas of Council Working Group on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA), attended notably 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 EU response;
- Exchanges with partners both at headquarters and at the field take place regularly;
- EDRIS (European Disaster Response Information System) collects data on ECHO and Member States' humanitarian aid activities;
- At international level, ECHO continues to participate in well-established *fora* such as the Good Humanitarian Donorship and the ICRC Donor Support Groups;
- 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).

### **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.

#### **Controls performed by ECHO**

The main aspects of the control environment developed by 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 the European Commission/ECHO, on behalf of the EU, signs with NGOs and international organisations<sup>30</sup> defining the requirements for financial credentials and expertise of partners;
  - Appraisal of project proposals and on the spot project monitoring through a network of ECHO field experts (technical assistants) worldwide;

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<sup>30</sup> Currently IFRC, ICRC and IOM. UN organisations and agencies are covered by the Commission-wide Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA).

- Regular field visits to projects by geographical desks, technical experts, external auditors, 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 operational and financial desk officers at ECHO;
- Regular evaluations are undertaken, focusing on major country operations, partners and thematic issues. The results of these are posted on ECHO's website;
- EU-funded humanitarian aid activities implemented by external parties (partners and contractors) are subject to financial and systems audits.

The monitoring mechanisms listed above should not be seen in isolation. Each one contributes to providing reasonable 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 autonomous bodies.

### **Additional controls**

ECHO's operations and financial management are also subject to external controls. In this respect, they are further audited by the European Court of Auditors. The European Court of Auditors audits EU finances and, increasingly, the performance of its activities. Its observations and recommendations are published in the Courts' annual and special reports, which are transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council<sup>31</sup>.

Furthermore, specialised committees of the Budget Authority (European Parliament and Council) exercise control over financial management in 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 European Commission's annual accounts.

### **Annexes:**

- Annex I: Index for Risk Management – INFORM & Crisis Assessment (September 2016)
- Annex II: Crisis Assessment Index Rank 2016
- Annex III: Summary of Forgotten Crisis Assessment 2016-2017

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<sup>31</sup> The annual report is published on <http://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/AuditReportsOpinions.aspx>

## Annex I: Index for Risk Management – INFORM & Crisis Assessment (September 2016)

### COUNTRY

COUNTRY	ISO3	Natural (0-10)	Human (0-10)	HAZARD & EXPOSURE (0-10)	Socio-Economic Vulnerability (0-10)	Vulnerable Groups (0-10)	VULNERABILITY (0-10)	Institutional (0-10)	Infrastructure (0-10)	LACK OF COPING CAPACITY (0-10)	INFORM RISK (0-10)	Rank (1-191)
Somalia	SOM	6,8	10,0	8,9	9,4	9,2	9,3	9,6	8,6	9,2	9,1	1
South Sudan	SSD	3,7	10,0	8,2	9,4	8,5	9,0	8,9	9,4	9,2	8,8	2
Central African Republic	CAF	1,7	10,0	7,9	8,6	8,5	8,6	8,2	9,1	8,7	8,4	3
Afghanistan	AFG	6,2	10,0	8,8	6,6	7,5	7,1	7,3	8,1	7,7	7,8	4
Chad	TCD	3,7	9,0	7,2	6,9	7,5	7,2	7,9	9,6	8,9	7,7	5
Yemen	YEM	3,7	10,0	8,2	5,1	8,2	6,9	8,3	7,3	7,8	7,6	6
Niger	NER	4,2	9,0	7,3	7,4	6,5	7,0	6,0	8,9	7,7	7,3	7
Congo DR	COD	3,3	8,0	6,2	6,3	7,6	7,0	7,8	8,1	8,0	7,0	8
Sudan	SDN	4,7	9,0	7,4	4,8	7,9	6,6	6,7	7,3	7,0	7,0	8
Iraq	IRQ	5,5	9,0	7,7	2,8	8,0	6,0	8,2	5,3	7,0	6,9	10
Syria	SYR	5,1	10,0	8,5	5,3	7,9	6,8	6,4	4,6	5,6	6,9	10
Myanmar	MMR	8,0	7,0	7,5	5,0	6,9	6,0	7,4	5,7	6,6	6,7	12
Pakistan	PAK	7,2	10,0	9,0	3,9	6,7	5,5	5,4	6,0	5,7	6,6	13
Ethiopia	ETH	4,3	6,7	5,6	6,6	6,9	6,8	4,6	8,4	6,9	6,4	14
Burundi	BDI	3,0	8,0	6,1	6,9	5,8	6,4	6,1	6,7	6,4	6,3	15
Nigeria	NGA	2,8	9,0	6,9	4,2	6,6	5,5	5,1	7,7	6,6	6,3	15
Cameroon	CMR	2,3	9,0	6,8	4,9	6,5	5,8	4,8	6,9	6,0	6,2	17
Libya	LBY	4,6	10,0	8,4	1,6	6,0	4,1	8,4	4,4	6,8	6,2	17
Kenya	KEN	4,9	7,0	6,1	4,9	6,7	5,9	5,3	7,3	6,4	6,1	19
Mali	MLI	3,3	7,0	5,4	6,8	5,2	6,1	5,9	7,5	6,8	6,1	19
Haiti	HTI	5,6	2,7	4,3	6,6	6,7	6,7	7,7	7,3	7,5	6,0	21
India	IND	7,9	6,9	7,4	3,9	6,6	5,4	3,8	5,6	4,8	5,8	22
Bangladesh	BGD	8,3	5,0	7,0	3,8	5,6	4,8	5,0	5,9	5,5	5,7	23
Mozambique	MOZ	5,9	3,0	4,6	7,0	4,7	6,0	4,4	8,2	6,7	5,7	23
Colombia	COL	6,5	7,0	6,8	2,7	7,8	5,8	4,4	3,7	4,1	5,4	25
Lebanon	LBN	3,7	7,0	5,6	4,1	8,3	6,7	5,6	2,3	4,1	5,4	25
Uganda	UGA	3,4	3,9	3,7	5,8	6,3	6,1	6,7	7,1	6,9	5,4	25
El Salvador	SLV	6,1	7,0	6,6	3,7	6,2	5,1	5,4	3,4	4,5	5,3	28
Ukraine	UKR	3,2	9,0	7,0	1,6	6,5	4,5	6,6	2,4	4,8	5,3	28
Mauritania	MRT	5,1	2,0	3,7	5,2	4,9	5,1	5,9	7,9	7,0	5,1	30
Papua New Guinea	PNG	5,3	0,2	3,1	5,7	5,6	5,7	6,8	8,4	7,7	5,1	30
Guatemala	GTM	6,9	1,1	4,6	4,4	5,4	4,9	6,2	5,2	5,7	5,0	32
Nepal	NPL	5,5	2,5	4,2	4,1	5,9	5,1	6,2	5,5	5,9	5,0	32
Palestine	PSE	3,2	5,1	4,2	4,3	7,7	6,3	6,0	2,7	4,6	5,0	32

Turkey	TUR	6,0	9,0	7,8	2,8	6,6	5,0	3,6	2,7	3,2	5,0	32
Eritrea	ERI	4,1	2,0	3,1	5,9	3,5	4,8	8,2	7,5	7,9	4,9	36
Guinea	GIN	2,4	3,9	3,2	5,7	3,8	4,8	6,3	8,4	7,5	4,9	36
Korea DPR	PRK	4,8	1,8	3,4	5,0	5,0	5,0	8,8	3,4	6,9	4,9	36
Madagascar	MDG	5,9	0,7	3,7	5,3	2,7	4,1	6,1	8,6	7,6	4,9	36
Philippines	PHL	8,4	9,0	8,7	2,6	4,1	3,4	4,6	3,6	4,1	4,9	36
Burkina Faso	BFA	2,8	2,7	2,8	7,3	4,9	6,2	4,7	7,4	6,2	4,8	41
Djibouti	DJI	4,9	0,5	3,0	5,6	5,8	5,7	6,2	6,7	6,5	4,8	41
Mexico	MEX	7,0	9,0	8,2	2,2	3,9	3,1	5,4	3,3	4,4	4,8	41
Solomon Islands	SLB	5,5	0,0	3,2	7,2	1,9	5,1	6,9	6,8	6,9	4,8	41
Tanzania	TZA	4,6	1,1	3,0	5,3	5,8	5,6	5,1	7,5	6,5	4,8	41
Côte d'Ivoire	CIV	2,0	2,7	2,4	5,5	5,8	5,7	7,3	7,6	7,5	4,7	46
Sierra Leone	SLE	2,3	2,7	2,5	7,5	3,3	5,8	5,4	8,5	7,2	4,7	46
Iran	IRN	7,2	1,4	4,9	2,7	5,5	4,2	5,5	3,7	4,7	4,6	48
Liberia	LBR	3,0	0,6	1,9	7,7	4,6	6,4	7,0	8,6	7,9	4,6	48
Senegal	SEN	4,3	2,4	3,4	5,5	3,9	4,8	5,2	6,7	6,0	4,6	48
Zimbabwe	ZWE	4,7	2,2	3,6	4,8	4,5	4,7	5,2	6,4	5,8	4,6	48
Egypt	EGY	5,5	7,0	6,3	2,5	4,1	3,3	5,4	3,5	4,5	4,5	52
Honduras	HND	5,8	1,0	3,8	4,0	5,2	4,6	6,0	4,3	5,2	4,5	52
Malawi	MWI	3,7	0,5	2,2	6,8	5,7	6,3	5,4	7,2	6,4	4,5	52
Rwanda	RWA	3,2	2,2	2,7	6,5	5,5	6,0	3,9	6,2	5,2	4,4	55
Indonesia	IDN	7,8	5,5	6,8	2,4	2,3	2,4	4,5	5,1	4,8	4,3	56
Russian Federation	RUS	6,3	4,8	5,6	2,1	4,1	3,2	6,2	2,2	4,5	4,3	56
Angola	AGO	2,1	2,6	2,4	4,4	4,4	4,4	6,6	7,4	7,0	4,2	58
Timor-Leste	TLS	3,6	0,3	2,1	4,9	5,0	5,0	6,8	7,2	7,0	4,2	58
Cambodia	KHM	5,4	1,1	3,5	4,1	1,7	3,0	7,0	6,0	6,5	4,1	60
China	CHN	7,9	5,1	6,7	1,7	3,6	2,7	3,9	3,5	3,7	4,1	60
Guinea-Bissau	GNB	2,4	0,6	1,5	7,2	4,5	6,0	8,0	7,6	7,8	4,1	60
Jordan	JOR	3,9	1,3	2,7	3,8	7,7	6,1	5,4	2,6	4,1	4,1	60
Thailand	THA	6,4	5,2	5,8	2,1	3,8	3,0	5,0	2,9	4,0	4,1	60
Zambia	ZMB	2,4	1,8	2,1	5,2	5,3	5,3	4,8	7,1	6,1	4,1	60
Algeria	DZA	4,1	3,7	3,9	3,1	3,4	3,3	4,9	4,6	4,8	4,0	66
Ecuador	ECU	6,8	0,2	4,3	2,4	4,5	3,5	4,7	3,8	4,3	4,0	66
Georgia	GEO	4,5	3,7	4,1	2,9	5,9	4,6	4,6	2,0	3,4	4,0	66
Peru	PER	7,0	1,3	4,8	2,3	3,3	2,8	4,8	4,3	4,6	4,0	66
Sri Lanka	LKA	4,9	3,4	4,2	2,7	4,4	3,6	4,6	3,6	4,1	4,0	66
Azerbaijan	AZE	4,5	0,5	2,7	1,7	6,5	4,5	6,4	2,6	4,8	3,9	71
Nicaragua	NIC	6,6	0,9	4,3	3,6	1,5	2,6	5,9	4,8	5,4	3,9	71
South Africa	ZAF	4,4	2,2	3,4	3,3	4,7	4,0	4,5	4,2	4,4	3,9	71
Tajikistan	TJK	6,1	1,8	4,3	2,7	2,9	2,8	5,8	4,1	5,0	3,9	71
Togo	TGO	1,6	1,6	1,6	5,1	4,0	4,6	8,2	7,6	7,9	3,9	71
Vanuatu	VUT	4,2	0,0	2,3	5,0	3,2	4,2	5,8	6,4	6,1	3,9	71
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BIH	4,2	1,8	3,1	2,3	5,3	4,0	6,1	2,4	4,5	3,8	77
Lao PDR	LAO	4,7	1,1	3,1	3,6	2,0	2,8	6,4	6,0	6,2	3,8	77
Lesotho	LSO	1,9	1,3	1,6	5,5	4,9	5,2	7,1	6,2	6,7	3,8	77

Namibia	NAM	4,1	0,6	2,5	4,5	3,5	4,0	4,6	5,9	5,3	3,8	77
Serbia	SRB	4,6	1,7	3,3	1,6	5,9	4,1	5,2	2,3	3,9	3,8	77
Venezuela	VEN	5,9	0,2	3,6	2,9	4,1	3,5	5,2	3,4	4,4	3,8	77
Congo	COG	2,5	0,2	1,4	3,9	5,5	4,8	7,5	7,1	7,3	3,7	83
Kiribati	KIR	3,0	0,1	1,7	6,1	2,7	4,6	6,2	5,8	6,0	3,6	84
Micronesia	FSM	3,0	0,0	1,6	6,5	3,9	5,3	6,0	5,3	5,7	3,6	84
Tuvalu	TUV	2,6	0,0	1,4	7,3	3,7	5,8	6,9	4,7	5,9	3,6	84
Benin	BEN	1,5	1,3	1,4	5,8	2,0	4,2	5,9	7,8	7,0	3,5	87
Comoros	COM	2,6	0,1	1,4	5,8	2,6	4,4	7,9	5,8	7,0	3,5	87
Mongolia	MNG	3,6	2,0	2,8	2,6	3,6	3,1	5,6	4,5	5,1	3,5	87
Morocco	MAR	4,9	1,1	3,2	3,3	1,9	2,6	5,8	4,1	5,0	3,5	87
Viet Nam	VNM	7,2	3,0	5,5	2,6	0,9	1,8	5,1	3,4	4,3	3,5	87
Marshall Islands	MHL	2,1	0,0	1,1	7,3	2,0	5,2	7,7	5,2	6,6	3,4	92
Panama	PAN	4,9	1,2	3,3	2,9	2,9	2,9	4,8	3,3	4,1	3,4	92
Armenia	ARM	4,4	0,1	2,5	2,1	3,7	2,9	6,7	2,4	4,9	3,3	94
Belize	BLZ	5,2	0,0	3,0	3,0	1,5	2,3	6,3	4,0	5,3	3,3	94
Guyana	GUY	3,1	0,1	1,7	4,2	3,6	3,9	6,3	4,6	5,5	3,3	94
Kyrgyzstan	KGZ	5,9	1,1	3,9	3,0	1,0	2,1	5,4	3,4	4,5	3,3	94
Malaysia	MYS	4,8	3,2	4,0	2,3	3,7	3,0	3,3	2,9	3,1	3,3	94
Bolivia	BOL	3,8	0,7	2,4	3,4	1,7	2,6	6,0	4,8	5,4	3,2	99
Brazil	BRA	3,7	3,6	3,7	2,5	1,6	2,1	5,1	3,0	4,1	3,2	99
Dominican Republic	DOM	5,7	1,0	3,7	2,6	1,3	2,0	5,5	3,6	4,6	3,2	99
Gambia	GMB	2,2	0,1	1,2	6,3	3,5	5,1	4,9	6,0	5,5	3,2	99
Ghana	GHA	2,4	1,2	1,8	4,0	3,0	3,5	4,4	6,1	5,3	3,2	99
Moldova Republic of	MDA	3,9	3,2	3,6	2,5	1,3	1,9	6,3	2,5	4,7	3,2	99
Turkmenistan	TKM	4,6	1,3	3,1	2,7	0,9	1,8	7,5	3,9	6,0	3,2	99
Saudi Arabia	SAU	2,6	10,0	8,0	1,8	0,4	1,1	4,7	2,1	3,5	3,1	106
Swaziland	SWZ	2,0	0,8	1,4	4,5	3,3	3,9	5,2	5,8	5,5	3,1	106
United States of America	USA	6,9	5,1	6,1	1,2	3,3	2,3	2,7	1,6	2,2	3,1	106
Botswana	BWA	2,7	0,3	1,6	4,1	2,9	3,5	4,9	4,6	4,8	3,0	109
Dominica	DMA	3,6	0,0	2,0	4,1	3,2	3,7	4,6	2,9	3,8	3,0	109
Fiji	FJI	3,8	0,1	2,1	3,7	3,3	3,5	2,9	4,4	3,7	3,0	109
Samoa	WSM	3,6	0,0	2,0	5,5	0,4	3,4	4,6	3,6	4,1	3,0	109
Bhutan	BTN	3,2	0,1	1,8	4,2	1,2	2,8	4,3	5,1	4,7	2,9	113
Chile	CHL	6,6	0,9	4,3	2,3	1,5	1,9	3,1	2,6	2,9	2,9	113
Costa Rica	CRI	6,3	0,1	3,8	2,8	1,7	2,3	3,0	2,6	2,8	2,9	113
Palau	PLW	3,1	0,0	1,7	4,5	0,8	2,9	6,1	4,0	5,1	2,9	113
Uzbekistan	UZB	6,1	2,8	4,7	1,9	0,7	1,3	4,9	3,3	4,1	2,9	113
Albania	ALB	5,8	0,3	3,5	2,0	0,7	1,4	5,8	2,7	4,4	2,8	118
Italy	ITA	5,0	3,6	4,3	1,0	3,3	2,2	3,7	0,9	2,4	2,8	118
Oman	OMN	6,2	0,3	3,8	2,1	0,9	1,5	5,0	2,6	3,9	2,8	118
Romania	ROU	4,7	3,2	4,0	1,8	1,3	1,6	4,6	2,3	3,5	2,8	118
Cuba	CUB	5,6	2,3	4,1	2,7	0,2	1,5	3,9	2,2	3,1	2,7	122
Cyprus	CYP	3,0	0,1	1,7	1,3	6,6	4,5	3,3	1,6	2,5	2,7	122
Equatorial Guinea	GNQ	1,5	0,2	0,9	3,8	1,9	2,9	8,0	6,3	7,2	2,7	122

Nauru	NRU	1,4	0,0	0,7	5,6	3,1	4,5	7,2	4,7	6,1	2,7	122
Tonga	TON	2,2	0,0	1,2	5,8	0,9	3,7	5,5	3,6	4,6	2,7	122
Canada	CAN	4,9	1,4	3,3	0,8	3,5	2,3	2,2	2,3	2,3	2,6	127
France	FRA	3,8	3,3	3,6	0,9	3,9	2,5	2,8	1,1	2,0	2,6	127
Gabon	GAB	1,9	0,2	1,1	3,0	2,6	2,8	6,6	5,4	6,0	2,6	127
Greece	GRC	4,7	1,7	3,3	1,4	2,8	2,1	3,6	1,0	2,4	2,6	127
Suriname	SUR	3,5	0,0	1,9	2,8	0,8	1,9	5,9	3,8	4,9	2,6	127
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	MKD	3,6	1,3	2,5	2,4	1,5	2,0	4,6	2,4	3,6	2,6	127
Tunisia	TUN	4,5	0,4	2,7	2,1	0,7	1,4	6,1	3,3	4,9	2,6	127
Bulgaria	BGR	3,4	1,1	2,3	2,0	2,6	2,3	4,3	1,7	3,1	2,5	134
Cabo Verde	CPV	1,9	0,1	1,0	5,9	1,0	3,9	4,1	4,0	4,1	2,5	134
Israel	ISR	4,3	2,4	3,4	1,2	2,9	2,1	3,3	1,1	2,3	2,5	134
Argentina	ARG	3,5	1,7	2,6	1,6	1,1	1,4	5,0	2,2	3,7	2,4	137
Jamaica	JAM	3,7	0,2	2,1	2,5	0,9	1,7	4,3	3,5	3,9	2,4	137
Montenegro	MNE	4,0	0,1	2,3	1,9	1,7	1,8	4,6	2,0	3,4	2,4	137
Seychelles	SYC	2,5	0,0	1,3	4,7	0,9	3,0	4,4	2,6	3,6	2,4	137
Australia	AUS	6,0	0,1	3,6	0,6	2,6	1,7	2,2	1,9	2,1	2,3	141
Croatia	HRV	5,0	0,1	2,9	1,5	0,9	1,2	4,4	1,4	3,0	2,2	142
Paraguay	PRY	1,9	0,1	1,0	3,7	0,9	2,4	5,4	3,6	4,6	2,2	142
Bahamas	BHS	3,6	0,0	2,0	2,3	0,9	1,6	3,3	2,5	2,9	2,1	144
Maldives	MDV	3,1	0,0	1,7	2,1	0,7	1,4	5,8	1,5	4,0	2,1	144
Mauritius	MUS	3,4	0,0	1,9	2,9	0,6	1,8	3,5	2,0	2,8	2,1	144
Spain	ESP	4,5	2,4	3,5	1,1	1,4	1,3	2,9	0,7	1,9	2,1	144
Antigua and Barbuda	ATG	2,7	0,0	1,4	1,8	0,9	1,4	5,3	2,0	3,8	2,0	148
Japan	JPN	8,3	1,8	6,0	0,9	0,8	0,9	2,0	1,0	1,5	2,0	148
Kazakhstan	KAZ	4,3	0,6	2,6	1,2	0,4	0,8	5,0	2,4	3,8	2,0	148
Kuwait	KWT	2,3	0,5	1,4	2,4	0,9	1,7	5,2	1,4	3,5	2,0	148
Poland	POL	2,4	1,3	1,9	1,3	1,9	1,6	4,0	1,3	2,8	2,0	148
Trinidad and Tobago	TTO	2,3	0,1	1,3	2,0	1,3	1,7	4,9	1,8	3,5	2,0	148
United Arab Emirates	ARE	6,0	0,4	3,7	1,7	0,7	1,2	2,3	1,5	1,9	2,0	148
Belarus	BLR	2,3	1,3	1,8	1,0	1,3	1,2	4,6	1,4	3,2	1,9	155
Germany	DEU	2,2	1,4	1,8	0,5	4,0	2,4	2,2	0,7	1,5	1,9	155
Hungary	HUN	3,6	0,4	2,1	1,5	1,7	1,6	2,9	1,1	2,0	1,9	155
Malta	MLT	2,1	0,1	1,2	1,6	2,8	2,2	3,7	0,8	2,4	1,9	155
Saint Kitts and Nevis	KNA	1,7	0,0	0,9	3,7	0,5	2,2	4,6	2,3	3,5	1,9	155
United Kingdom	GBR	2,1	2,0	2,1	0,9	3,3	2,2	2,0	0,9	1,5	1,9	155
New Zealand	NZL	5,2	0,1	3,0	0,8	1,0	0,9	1,9	2,1	2,0	1,8	161
Slovakia	SVK	3,4	0,6	2,1	1,1	0,9	1,0	3,8	1,1	2,6	1,8	161
Uruguay	URY	1,3	0,8	1,1	2,4	1,1	1,8	3,7	1,8	2,8	1,8	161
Austria	AUT	2,4	0,1	1,3	0,8	3,5	2,3	2,1	1,0	1,6	1,7	164
Latvia	LVA	2,3	0,1	1,3	1,6	0,9	1,3	3,8	1,6	2,8	1,7	164
Barbados	BRB	2,5	0,0	1,3	1,9	0,5	1,2	2,7	2,1	2,4	1,6	166
Brunei Darussalam	BRN	2,3	0,0	1,2	1,0	0,6	0,8	4,7	4,2	4,5	1,6	166
Portugal	PRT	3,6	0,1	2,0	1,5	0,7	1,1	3,0	0,9	2,0	1,6	166

Saint Lucia	LCA	1,8	0,0	0,9	1,9	0,5	1,2	4,6	2,7	3,7	1,6	166
Korea Republic of	KOR	5,2	0,4	3,2	0,8	0,4	0,6	2,5	1,2	1,9	1,5	170
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	VCT	1,0	0,0	0,5	2,7	0,6	1,7	4,1	3,0	3,6	1,5	170
Czech Republic	CZE	2,1	0,4	1,3	0,8	1,4	1,1	3,1	1,0	2,1	1,4	172
Lithuania	LTU	1,8	0,1	1,0	1,4	1,0	1,2	3,5	1,1	2,4	1,4	172
Netherlands	NLD	1,9	0,1	1,0	0,4	3,5	2,1	1,5	0,9	1,2	1,4	172
Slovenia	SVN	3,8	0,1	2,1	0,6	0,9	0,8	2,2	1,2	1,7	1,4	172
Belgium	BEL	1,6	0,0	0,8	0,6	2,7	1,7	2,3	0,7	1,5	1,3	176
Grenada	GRD	0,5	0,0	0,3	3,1	0,5	1,9	5,0	2,4	3,8	1,3	176
Iceland	ISL	2,4	0,0	1,3	0,6	0,9	0,8	2,1	1,7	1,9	1,3	176
Ireland	IRL	2,0	0,1	1,1	0,7	1,7	1,2	2,2	1,3	1,8	1,3	176
Qatar	QAT	1,0	0,1	0,6	2,5	0,7	1,6	3,9	0,4	2,3	1,3	176
Sweden	SWE	1,1	0,1	0,6	0,5	4,4	2,7	1,9	0,9	1,4	1,3	176
Switzerland	CHE	1,9	0,9	1,4	0,4	3,6	2,1	1,0	0,6	0,8	1,3	176
Sao Tome and Principe	STP	0,1	0,0	0,1	4,9	1,4	3,3	6,3	4,7	5,6	1,2	183
Denmark	DNK	1,0	0,1	0,6	0,4	2,9	1,7	2,0	0,8	1,4	1,1	184
Estonia	EST	0,9	0,1	0,5	1,2	1,0	1,1	3,0	1,0	2,1	1,0	185
Liechtenstein	LIE	1,3	0,0	0,7	0,5	1,4	1,0	1,6	0,9	1,3	1,0	185
Norway	NOR	0,2	0,3	0,3	0,2	3,5	2,0	1,9	1,3	1,6	1,0	185
Bahrain	BHR	0,1	0,1	0,1	1,8	0,9	1,4	4,1	1,2	2,8	0,7	188
Luxembourg	LUX	0,4	0,1	0,3	0,9	1,3	1,1	1,8	0,6	1,2	0,7	188
Finland	FIN	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,7	2,3	1,5	1,6	0,9	1,3	0,6	190
Singapore	SGP	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,6	0,3	0,5	1,2	0,9	1,1	0,4	191



## Annex II: Crisis Assessment Index Rank 2016

### Crisis Assessment Index Rank 2016



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	0	3	3
AZE	Azerbaijan	3	0	0	3
BGD	Bangladesh	0	3	0	3
BOL	Bolivia	0	3	0	3
CAF	Central African Republic	3	0	3	3
TCD	Chad	3	1	3	3
CHL	Chile	0	3	0	3
COL	Colombia	3	0	3	3
COD	Congo, Democratic Republic of the	2	0	3	3
EGY	Egypt	0	0	3	3
GEO	Georgia	3	0	0	3
HTI	Haiti	2	3	0	3
IND	India	0	3	2	3
IRQ	Iraq	3	0	3	3
JOR	Jordan	3	0	0	3
KEN	Kenya	2	3	3	3
LBN	Lebanon	3	3	3	3
LBY	Libya	3	0	3	3
MLI	Mali	0	0	3	3

MEX	Mexico	0	0	0	3	3	3
MOZ	Mozambique	0	3	0	0	3	3
MMR	Myanmar, Union of	2	3	3	3	3	3
NPL	Nepal	0	3	0	0	3	3
NER	Niger	2	3	3	3	3	3
NGA	Nigeria	2	0	3	3	3	3
PAK	Pakistan	2	3	3	3	3	3
PSE	Palestine	3	0	2	3	3	3
PRY	Paraguay	0	3	0	3	3	3
PHL	Philippines	0	3	3	3	3	3
SRB	Serbia	3	2	0	0	3	3
SOM	Somalia	3	3	3	3	3	3
SSD	South Sudan	3	0	3	3	3	3
SDN	Sudan	3	3	3	3	3	3
SYR	Syrian Arab Republic	3	0	3	3	3	3
TUR	Turkey	3	0	3	3	3	3
UKR	Ukraine	3	0	3	3	3	3
YEM	Yemen	3	3	3	3	3	3
BDI	Burundi	2	0	3	3	3	3
CMR	Cameroon	2	2	3	3	3	3
ECU	Ecuador	2	3	0	3	3	3
ETH	Ethiopia	2	3	0	3	3	3
PRK	Korea Dem.People's Rep.	0	3	0	3	3	3
CUB	Cuba	0	3	0	3	3	3
MIDG	Madagascar	0	3	0	3	3	3
MWI	Malawi	0	3	0	3	3	3
PNG	Papua New Guinea	0	3	0	3	3	3
PER	Peru	0	3	0	3	3	3
ZWE	Zimbabwe	0	3	0	3	3	3

DJI	Djibouti	3	0	0	0	3
SLV	El Salvador	3	3	3	3	3
FJI	Fiji	0	3	0	3	3
GUY	Guyana	0	3	0	3	3
MKD	Macedonia	0	3	0	3	3
MNG	Mongolia	0	3	0	3	3
NRU	Nauru	3	0	0	3	3
VUT	Vanuatu	0	3	0	3	3
VNM	Vietnam	0	3	0	3	3
DZA	Algeria	0	0	2	2	2
BIH	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	2	0	2	2
BFA	Burkina Faso	0	2	0	2	2
CHN	China (w/out Hong Kong)	0	2	2	2	2
GTM	Guatemala	2	2	0	2	2
HND	Honduras	2	2	0	2	2
IRN	Iran, Islamic Republic of	2	0	0	2	2
MYS	Malaysia	0	2	0	2	2
NIC	Nicaragua	0	2	0	2	2
LKA	Sri Lanka	0	2	0	2	2
THA	Thailand	0	2	0	2	2
BRA	Brazil	0	2	1	2	2
COG	Congo, Rep. Of	2	0	0	2	2
MRT	Mauritania	2	0	0	2	2
RWA	Rwanda	2	0	0	2	2
SEN	Senegal	0	2	0	2	2
UGA	Uganda	2	0	1	2	2
VEN	Venezuela	2	0	0	2	2
KHM	Cambodia	0	2	0	2	2
CIV	Cote d Ivoire	2	0	0	2	2

LAO	Laos	0	1	0	0	1
NAM	Namibia	0	1	0	0	1
TUN	Tunisia	0	0	1	0	1
JAM	Jamaica	0	0	0	0	0
SLB	Solomon Islands	0	0	0	0	0
LBR	Liberia	0	0	0	0	0
ALB	Albania	0	0	0	0	0
AGO	Angola	0	0	0	0	0
GMB	Gambia	0	0	0	0	0
LSO	Lesotho	0	0	0	0	0
TJK	Tajikistan	0	0	0	0	0
ATG	Antigua and Barbuda	0	0	0	0	0
ARG	Argentina	0	0	0	0	0
ARM	Armenia	0	0	0	0	0
BHS	Bahamas	0	0	0	0	0
BHR	Bahrain	0	0	0	0	0
BRB	Barbados	0	0	0	0	0
BLR	Belarus	0	0	0	0	0
BLZ	Belize	0	0	0	0	0
BEN	Benin	0	0	0	0	0
BTN	Bhutan	0	0	0	0	0
BWA	Botswana	0	0	0	0	0
BRN	Brunei	0	0	0	0	0
CPV	Cap Verde	0	0	0	0	0
COM	Comoros	0	0	0	0	0
CRI	Costa Rica	0	0	0	0	0
DMA	Dominica	0	0	0	0	0
DOM	Dominican Republic	0	0	0	0	0
TLS	East Timor	0	0	0	0	0

GNQ	Equatorial Guinea	0	0	0	0	0	0
ERI	Eritrea	0	0	0	0	0	0
GAB	Gabon	0	0	0	0	0	0
GHA	Ghana	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRD	Grenada	0	0	0	0	0	0
GIN	Guinea	0	0	0	0	0	0
GNB	Guinea Bissau	0	0	0	0	0	0
IDN	Indonesia	0	0	0	0	0	0
KAZ	Kazakhstan	0	0	0	0	0	0
KIR	Kiribati	0	0	0	0	0	0
KGZ	Kyrgyzstan	0	0	0	0	0	0
MDV	Maldives	0	0	0	0	0	0
MHL	Marshall Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
MUS	Mauritius	0	0	0	0	0	0
FSM	Micronesia	0	0	0	0	0	0
MDA	Moldova	0	0	0	0	0	0
MNE	Montenegro	0	0	0	0	0	0
MAR	Morocco	0	0	0	0	0	0
PLW	Palau	0	0	0	0	0	0
PAN	Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0
LCA	Saint Lucia	0	0	0	0	0	0
VCT	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0
WSM	Samoa	0	0	0	0	0	0
STP	Sao Tome and Principe	0	0	0	0	0	0
SYC	Seychelles	0	0	0	0	0	0
SLE	Sierra Leone	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUR	Suriname	0	0	0	0	0	0
SWZ	Swaziland	0	0	0	0	0	0

TZA	Tanzania	0	0	0	0	0	0
TGO	Togo	0	0	0	0	0	0
TON	Tonga	0	0	0	0	0	0
TTO	Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	0	0	0	0
TKM	Turkmenistan	0	0	0	0	0	0
TUV	Tuvalu	0	0	0	0	0	0
URY	Uruguay	0	0	0	0	0	0
UZB	Uzbekistan	0	0	0	0	0	0
ZMB	Zambia	0	0	0	0	0	0

Annex III: Summary of Forgotten Crisis Assessment 2016-2017

### Forgotten Crisis Assessment Sep 2016

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.

ISO3	Country (Crisis name)	FCA Index	4 Dimensions			
			INFORM Index	Media coverage	Public aid per capita	Qualitative assessment
PHL	Philippines (Mindanao Conflict)	11	2	3	3	3
CMR	Cameroon (CAR Crisis)	11	3	3	2	3
MLI	Mali (Northern Mali Conflict (Kidal, Gao & Tombouctou))	11	3	2	3	3
BGD	Bangladesh (Rohingya Refugee Crisis in Cox Bazar, Chittagong Hill Tracks (CHT))	10	3	2	2	3
IND	India (Latent conflict in Jammu & Kashmir, Naxal Insurgency, Insurgency in the North East States)	10	3	2	2	3
MMR	Myanmar, Union of (Central Rakhine State, Northern Rakhine State, Kachin and (northern) Shan States)	10	3	2	2	3
DZA	Algeria (Sahrawi crisis)	10	3	1	3	3
SDN	Sudan (Conflict in Darfur and the Two Areas (SKS and BNS), Severe food insecurity and malnutrition, Large Scale Refugee Crisis)	10	3	3	1	3
PAK	Pakistan (Conflict affected population, Food Insecurity & Undernutrition/Natural Disasters)	10	3	2	2	3
COL	Colombia (Armed Conflict)	9	3	2	1	3
TCD	Chad (Refugees crisis (Eastern and Southern Chad))	9	3	1	2	3
YEM	Yemen (Conflict and displacement, Pre-existing crises, Refugees and migrants)	8	3	1	1	3