

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)

SOUTHERN AFRICA INDIAN OCEAN¹

The activities proposed hereafter are still subject to the adoption of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/ BUD/2025/01000²

AMOUNT: EUR 35 000 000

The present Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) was prepared on the basis of financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2025/01000 (Worldwide Decision) and the related General Guidelines for Operational Priorities on Humanitarian Aid (Operational Priorities). The purpose of the HIP and its annexes³ is to serve as a communication tool from DG ECHO⁴ to its partners and assist them in the preparation of their proposals. The provisions of the Worldwide Decision and the General Conditions of the Agreement with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

1. CONTEXT

The Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (SAIO) region, composed of 14 countries with different level of national capacities, is prone to **natural disasters resulting in environmental degradation and limited natural resources' management and man-made disasters – caused by armed conflict and violence**. The rising food prices, cholera outbreaks, and ongoing macroeconomic challenges further exacerbate the humanitarian situation. Three main crises affect the region: the El Niño-induced drought in most countries, the chronic acute needs in Madagascar and the conflict in Northern Mozambique. As regards the latter, DG ECHO's Funding Information Tool for 2025 and INFORM Risk⁵ and Severity⁶ indexes have identified high severity and high risk in Mozambique due to the prevalence of the internal violence and insecurity in Cabo Delgado province, as well as high severity and risk related to the drought across the SAIO region.SAIO region.

In 2023/2024, the region has been faced with a severe climate and food security crisis as a result of the **El Niño-induced drought**. The worst mid-season dry spell in over 100 years coupled with the lowest mid-season rainfall in 40 years have negatively impacted the lives and livelihoods of more than 30 million people and have led to the declaration of national disasters in Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The drought has occurred concurrently with flash floods and landslides from heavy rains emanating from Tropical Cyclones Gamane and Filipo that ravaged Madagascar and Mozambique, Belal that passed close to Mauritius,

¹ This HIP covers the following countries in the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region (SAIO): Angola, Botswana, Comoros Islands, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe

² *Conditionality clause to be inserted if the HIP is released before adoption of the Worldwide Decision. To be deleted after the formal adoption of the decision.*

³ Technical annex and thematic policies annex

⁴ Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)

⁵ INFORM Risk is a global, open-source risk assessment for humanitarian crises and disasters: <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Risk>

⁶ The INFORM Severity Index is a way to objectively measure and compare the severity of humanitarian crises and disasters globally: <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Severity>

bringing heavy rainfall and strong winds⁷ and Freddy that hit Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar.

The conflict dynamics in **Cabo Delgado province, Northern Mozambique**, have changed again over the course of 2023/2024, with increased attacks in a wider area of the province as the withdrawal of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) progressed. The security situation remains volatile and civilians continue to bear the brunt of the armed violence: conflict-affected populations suffer from lack of food and water, inadequate sanitation and health services, insufficient shelter, and numerous protection risks

Additionally, an estimated population of 2.8 million people (of which 18% in Integrated Phase Classification 4 (IPC) are suffering acute food insecurity in Mozambique, with a projected increase to 3.3 million (of which 24% in IPC4) until March 2025.

Madagascar faces a mixture of acute and chronic needs, combining high levels of malnutrition, mortality and disease alongside high and protracted poverty levels, food insecurity and an economic stagnation. Some 3.86 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance as prolonged drought, recurrent floods, cyclones, and epidemics have impacted the already vulnerable populations living in the country's Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est regions. The degradation of livelihood and means of support has also further exacerbated the protection needs, which has in turn exposed children to increased risks, as well as lead to a rise in gender-based violence.

In this context, there is a need to expand further disaster preparedness and anticipatory actions in the region. Bodies like the Southern African Development Community (**SADC**) have been developing their disaster preparedness capacities and international support in this area should continue.

	Angola	Botswana	Comoros	Eswatini	Lesotho	Madagascar	Malawi	Mauritius	Mozambique	Namibia	Seychelles	South Africa	Zambia	Zimbabwe
INFORM RISK INDEX (0-10) <i>2024 mid-year figures</i>	5.2	2.6	3.2	3.5	3.5	5.1	4.3	2.3	6.6	3.8	1.5	4.1	3.9	4.2
Hazard and Exposure	4.1	1.1	1.0	1.8	1.1	3.4	2.2	1.7	6.1	2.3	1.2	3.8	1.8	2.4
Vulnerability	5.1	3.7	4.8	4.4	5.6	5.6	6.1	2.4	7.7	4.8	1.0	4.5	6.0	5.3
Lack of Coping Capacities	6.7	4.5	7.1	5.2	6.9	7.1	6.1	2.8	6.2	5.0	2.7	4.1	5.6	5.8
INFORM SEVERITY INDEX (0-5) <i>ACAPS July 2024 figures</i>	2.8			2.5		2.6 (drought); 2.4 (cyclones)	3.5		3.6 (conflict, displ); 3.2 (floods, displ)	2.6			3.5	3.8
Impact of the crisis	2			2.6		2.3 (drought); 1.6 (cyclones)	3.8		3.5 (conflict, displ); 4.3 (floods, cyclones)	3			3.9	4.1
Condition of people affected	3.6			2.9		3.4 (drought); 2.8 (cyclones)	4		3.9 (conflict, displ); 2.5 (floods, cyclones)	3.3			4	4
Complexity of the crisis	2.2			1.8		1.5 (drought); 2.5 (cyclones)	2.5		3	1.3			2.5	3.4
Number of People in Need	2,800,000			300,000	700,000	1,400,000	9,000,000		3,300,000	1,400,000			9,800,000	9,400,000
Human Development Index (0-1)	0.591	0.708	0.586	0.610	0.521	0.487	0.508	0.796	0.461	0.610	0.802	0.717	0.569	0.550
Total Population	37 804 634	2 719 694	867 604	1 222 075	2 356 083	31 056 610	21 475 962	1 301 978	34 858 402	2 645 805	108 263	61 020 221	21 134 695	17 020 321

⁷ SADC Regional Humanitarian Appeal. Response to the El Niño-induced Drought and Floods. May 2024

2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

2.1. People in need of humanitarian assistance:

People of Concern	Namibia	Angola	South Africa	eSwatini	Lesotho	Madagascar	Botswana	Malawi	Mozambique	Zimbabwe	Comoros	Zambia	Total - SAIO Region
People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance	N/A	3,761,462	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,860,000	N/A	N/A	2,000,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	9,621,462
IDPs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	659,278	875,972	41,535	N/A	N/A	1,576,785
Refugees/Asylum Seekers/Other People of Concern	7,234	56,114	150,962	2,627	643	444	931	51,483	33,872	24,744	12	88,033	417,099
Out-of-school Children - 2021 Data	12,563	2,335,456	1,538,800	30,243	39,183	2,503,200	81,393	1,222,100	1,907,300	906,500	64,500	1,291,600	11,932,838
Food Insecure People (IPC 3+)	750,000	3,800,000	14,400,000	282,800	319,429	1,720,621	37,000	4,402,000	3,146,423	4,249,378	N/A	1,952,123	35,059,774
# of children with Global Acute Malnutrition projections 2023	10809	1,302,509	287,443	1,442	12,390	424,040	23,093	213,259	831,560	159,775	40,312	532,028	3,338,660
# of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) - projections 2023	4,809	335,473	287,443	1,442	5,248	121,173	23,093	62,067	256,480	19,775	14,890	140,515	1,272,408

a. Food insecure people and children under the age of 5 affected by Acute Malnutrition

According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), more than 30 million people will need food assistance during the October 2024 – March 2025 lean season. Several countries in the region have issued revised IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis. All reports confirm a significant deterioration of the situation with millions of people facing high levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 Crisis or above) due to a combination of the impacts of the El Niño-induced drought, damages from floods, rise in prices and other socio-economic shocks.

Currently there are more than 3.2 million children facing acute malnutrition in the region, of which nearly 600 000 facing severe acute malnutrition (SAM). The root causes of malnutrition in the SAIO region are generally associated to a combination of multiple factors, such as increased food insecurity often as a result of natural hazards, deterioration of household purchasing power capacity, poor dietary diversity and inappropriate child feeding practices, limited access to basic services including to health care, increase in number, lengths and severity of diarrheic diseases and, mostly in the case of Northern Mozambique, population displacement. Based on the trends seen at the last comparable El Niño event of 2016, the effects on child nutrition status will be prolonged and seen mainly during the upcoming lean season, with a peak in the increase in admissions for wasting expected in early 2025.⁸

b. Vulnerable populations exposed to disasters induced by natural hazards

Natural multi-hazards, which are increasingly frequent and violent, damage critical public infrastructures and houses including roads leading to inaccessibility and delayed humanitarian assistance, temporary displacement and in some cases to protracted displacement. The SAIO region is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change in the world. The 2023/2024 El Niño event caused widespread drought conditions across Southern Africa, marked by a late

⁸ Ibidem

onset of rains, extended mid-season dry spells, and extreme high temperatures. Many countries experienced significant crop water deficits resulting in widespread crop failure. Evidence of domestic maize deficits and thin market supplies have been reflected in prices in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Malawi. While intra-regional trade will help to alleviate maize deficits, it will not meet overall regional needs; an estimated 5 million tons of imported maize will be necessary to meet regional demand. Shortages and lack of water, along with increased food insecurity and economic hardship has also triggered national and cross-border population movements, increasing protection risks. Most of the vulnerable population affected by the El Niño induced drought were previously affected by the 2022-2023 cyclonic season, and some by cholera outbreaks in 2022 and 2023.

c. Out-of-school children

Nearly 12 million children are out-of-school in the SAIO region⁹. In high-risk disaster-prone areas **children are often dropping out or missing school** due to various factors including closure of schools due to conflict, use of schools as evacuation centres, inadequate school infrastructures, which cannot withstand disasters, damage to school infrastructure and learning equipment, inaccessibility of schools due to destruction of roads and bridges, or in the most food insecure areas, due to lack of financial resources. Extreme weather events also disrupt education due to reduced family incomes, increased household responsibilities and absenteeism among teachers. Students, especially girls, from poorer households or with disabilities, are often the first to suffer reduced access to education, and increased protection risks, especially during the period between October and April coinciding with the lean and cyclone seasons. In addition, in Northern Mozambique, education facilities continue to be targeted by armed groups located in conflict-affected districts are destroyed or damaged. Over 50 per cent of the forcibly displaced population are children seeking protection and safety. This influx puts further strain on an already over-stretched education system.

d. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and their host communities

Across the region over 1.4 million¹⁰ people are currently internally displaced in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, out of which over 709 000 IDPs¹¹ are displaced due to violence and insecurity in northern Mozambique. Conflict-affected populations in Mozambique suffer from lack of food and access to safe water, inadequate sanitation and health services, insufficient shelter, and numerous protection risks. An estimated 72% of IDPs are living with host communities; most of them are also food insecure.

Across the region, many remain internally displaced due to hydrometeorological disasters (such as cyclones) while others still live in damaged or destroyed houses or makeshift shelters mainly in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Disasters and economic shocks expose communities to displacement and exacerbate vulnerabilities and protection needs.

⁹ UNICEF Global Education Monitoring Report 2022

¹⁰ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/rbsa> as of 30 June 2024

¹¹

e. Refugees, asylum-seekers and returning migrants

The region is hosting over 500 000 refugees, asylum seekers and other people of concern¹², mainly from Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi. The main drivers that lead people to seek refuge in neighbouring countries are recurrent conflicts, economic challenges in their home countries and natural disasters. These populations are dependent on humanitarian assistance as they have very limited options to engage in livelihood activities. Most seek refuge in South Africa, followed by Malawi, Zambia, Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

In **Zimbabwe**, forcibly returned migrants from South Africa, of which the majority are children and women, need protection and a safe environment. Similarly, in **Malawi**, the challenges faced by returnees remain significant, with many struggling to reintegrate and access basic services.

In **Mozambique**, in January 2024, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) reported that the number of returnees in the country stood at 632 000 people. The return did not mark the end of their vulnerability and their situation and needs are very often equally dire as those of the IDPs. In this context, the EU systematically reiterates the message that relocation and returns should be voluntary and dignified, encouraging to provide principled assistance based on needs, and not on status.

2.2. Description of the most acute humanitarian needs

a. Food Security & Livelihood

The current El Niño-induced drought and recurring natural and man-made shocks have a direct impact on food security in the region, which is in many areas facing recurrent hydro-meteorological hazards, high dependency on rains and poor agricultural techniques, depleted soil fertility, crop pests, land access disputes, lack of access to food and volatile food prices. The below average incomes and harvests further reduce food access, pushing millions of people to rely on alternative sources of income, social support, and humanitarian assistance during the longer-than-normal 2024/25 lean season. Five countries (Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Lesotho) have already declared a state of national emergency to tackle the drought.

Localised conflicts, social tensions, governance and socio-economic issues further compound the situation, while poor transport infrastructure remains a major obstacle to accessing hard-to-reach areas.

The IPC analysis shows weather shocks, such as erratic rainfall or dry spells in the south and the passage of cyclones in the north and east, continue to impact food production in **Madagascar**, expected to be below average during the lean season from September to October throughout the Grand Sud, the Grand Sud-Est, and in northern and eastern parts of the country. 1.78 million people (17% of the population) are projected to face crisis levels of acute food insecurity by the beginning of 2025.

¹² <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/rbsa> as of 30 June 2024

In **Malawi**, nearly 5.7 million people are projected to be food insecure for the 2024/2025 lean season due to poor harvests, climate shocks, and rising food prices. The country's agricultural sector, which employs over 80% of the population, is heavily impacted by erratic rainfall and prolonged droughts, reducing crop yields and livelihoods.

Mozambique has been ranked the highest in DG ECHO's Forgotten Crises Assessment for 2024/2025. The combined effects of the conflict in the Northern provinces, the El Niño-induced drought, Tropical Storm Filipo and other climatic shocks have led to 2.79 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC 3 or above) between April and September 2024, including 510 000 people in Emergency (IPC 4). The projections for the period October 2024 and March 2025 confirm a deteriorating situation with 3.28 million people in IPC 3 or above, including 777 000 people in Emergency (IPC 4).

In **Zambia**, the food security situation is also worrisome. The food insecure population (IPC3+) has increased from some 2 million people in 2023 to almost 5 million in 2024 and is expected to increase to 5.8 million by March 2025.

b. Nutrition

The El Niño-induced drought has led to higher malnutrition rates in the region, with over 3.5 million children expected to suffer from acute malnutrition, including 600 000 with severe acute malnutrition/wasting.

Despite the scale-up of acute malnutrition programmes, the nutrition situation in **Madagascar** remains very fragile and will likely worsen throughout the year, with nearly 459 000 children under five already acutely malnourished in the Grand Sud and the Grand Sud-Est.

In **Malawi**, malnutrition rates are increasing with vulnerable communities, particularly in rural areas, struggling to access sufficient nutritious food, especially among children. The situation is exacerbated by limited access to income-generating opportunities, further straining household resources.

In **Zimbabwe**, FEWS NET projections show that IPC 3 outcomes are expected to expand from June 2024 to January 2025. Below average incomes and harvests have made households more likely to deplete their own-produced stocks and rely on market purchases to meet their food needs while the annual inflation rate in Zimbabwe soared to 57.5% in April 2024.

The El Niño-induced drought has also worsened the nutrition crisis in **Zambia** where almost 52 000 children under five are expected to fall into severe wasting and another 277 000 into moderate acute malnutrition by the end of the year.

In **Mozambique**, more than 144 000 children under five and over 23 000 Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) are suffering from acute malnutrition. The reported figure for under five corresponds to 11% of the total children population in the surveyed districts.

c. Education in Emergencies (EiE)

Over the past few years, access to education for children has been frequently interrupted due to climate shocks, conflict or social and political grievances. Schools have been damaged, shut

down, used as shelter for IDPs or for military purposes (all in breach of the Safe Schools Declaration¹³). Naturally, the longer children are out of school the more difficult it is for them to re-enter school, placing them in situations of increased vulnerability. Food insecurity is also having a detrimental effect on advances in terms of access to and retention in education. Children are pulled out of school due to eroded purchasing power capacity at household level. Vulnerability concerns and child protection risks are aggravated, particularly for girls with sexual violence, early marriage, early pregnancy, child labour and forced recruitment. Adolescent (over-aged for their school grades) boys and girls are also further victimised often being excluded from education due to the absence of alternative and/or accelerated learning options.

d. Protection

IDPs, refugees and migrants are the populations most exposed to protection risks (including violence, discrimination, restriction of movement, coercion), often exacerbated by pre-existing social and gender inequalities.

In the region, extreme food insecurity amid climate shocks, conflict, and lack of services make vulnerable individuals (in particular women, children, elderly, persons with special needs) prone to employing negative coping mechanisms such as reducing the number of meals and variety of food, early or forced marriage, the worst forms of child labour, and sexual exploitation and abuse.

The region is facing a high prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV), most notably sexual violence, as a result of poverty, armed conflict and climate-induced disasters. Due to the lack of access to energy, water and/or basic services, women and girls must travel long distances increasing their exposure to protection risks.

Acute stress and traumatic events require a strong mental health and psychosocial response and more broadly protection responses. Community mechanisms, basic services and coordination need to be maintained and strengthened to mitigate the protection needs of the population. Given that more than 50% of the population is under 18 years old, child protection is a humanitarian necessity.

In **Mozambique**, serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law by all parties to the conflict have been reported, including sexual and gender-based violence, psychological trauma, killings, abductions, and forced recruitment of children into armed groups.

In **Madagascar**, the increased insecurity created by armed groups (Dahalo) and the food insecurity situation seriously undermine the protection of the civilian population. In particular, the lack of access to adequate food forces families to adopt negative coping mechanisms, such as early marriage, exploitation of children, deprivation of resources etc. This disproportionately affects women and girls, as well as adolescents whose needs are often overlooked, exacerbating

¹³ An inter-governmental political commitment to protect students, teachers, schools, and universities from the worst effects of armed conflict and UNDRR framework

social protection needs with child abuse and exploitation, gender-based violence, and school dropout on the rise.

Across the regions, the establishment of a protective humanitarian response remains of paramount importance in the countries affected by humanitarian crisis .

e. Health

Epidemic risks for food and water borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid fever are high in several countries of the region. In 2024, cholera has been particularly affecting Zambia, Zimbabwe, Comoros and Mozambique. Prevention, preparedness and response to future events and stand-by capacities need to be improved both in scope and timeliness, and health related crises should be included in the multi-risk approach.

Over 15 million people across the region live with HIV¹⁴. The risk of HIV transmission has increased notably because of GBV. Continuity of care and services is of concern during acute humanitarian emergencies (displacement).

Mental health and psychosocial needs are high in the aftermath of natural disasters, conflict, displacement (for further information see section on Protection above), and health could be part of a comprehensive response.

f. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Large-scale natural disasters (cyclones, floods, droughts), disease outbreaks (e.g., cholera) and protracted conflicts (e.g. in Northern Mozambique) undermine the regular provision of WASH services in the communities, affecting households, health and education facilities. The conflict in Northern Mozambique, cyclones and floods are displacing populations, thus triggering the need for emergency humanitarian WASH response. Competition over access to scarce water resources during humanitarian emergencies (including severe droughts) cause tensions between host communities and the displaced populations. The region has a high frequency of natural disasters which requires both preparedness and emergency WASH initiatives. The critical drought conditions induced by El Niño have caused shortages of water for drinking, hygiene, and sanitation and will strongly impact rural and urban communities.

g. Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

Large displacements are one of the consequences of recurrent natural disasters and the protracted conflict in Northern Mozambique. The provision of shelters and NFIs at the onset of crises is critical to alleviate suffering and mortality risks. With violent attacks continuing in Cabo Delgado, most displaced people first seek shelter with host families. Hosting displaced people often leads to overcrowding, unhealthy living conditions and increased vulnerability. The recurrency of cyclones and floods affecting the region causes high demands of emergency shelter and NFIs. Prepositioned stocks are often depleted during these disasters. Most local shelters and constructions used by communities are not resistant to cyclones. Considering vulnerabilities across the region and where markets are functional, supporting strategically the households purchasing power capacity might be more relevant to allow a timely and effective

¹⁴ UNAIDS Data 2023

humanitarian response, using unconditional multi-purpose cash modality. The risks posed by climate shocks in the region require the elaboration of contingency and response plans, integrating a sustainable ‘risk proof’ rehabilitation approach.

h. Disaster Preparedness (DP)

The magnitude, severity and frequency of, for example, recent cyclones, epidemic outbreaks and drought demonstrates the need to expand DP strategies to more geographical areas that were previously considered at lower risk but have proven to be highly exposed to those hazards. The capacities of the national disaster management authorities (NDMAs) and the local community-based civil protection committees vary amongst countries in the region. Further support is needed at all administrative levels and at regional level considering the establishment of the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operation Centre (SHOC) in Nacala (Mozambique).

Important progress has been made in the region in terms of promoting, developing and harmonising anticipatory action approaches for climate-induced and other natural hazards, (volcanos, earthquakes etc.); at the same time, there is a need to further strengthen anticipatory action approaches for human-induced disasters.

Recurring epidemics have also burdened and disrupted health systems across Southern Africa, significantly impeding access to essential and lifesaving health services (including sexual and reproductive). In the face of such cross-border threats, there is a need to strengthen the preparedness and capacity of health systems to respond to new shocks.

More DP strategies for urban areas need to be developed, promoted and advocated due to the concentration of vulnerable population in disaster-prone urban areas and of the short and medium-term risks associated with urbanisation such as environmental degradation and accruing urban waste, which mostly clog the drainages and may cause floods. Unregulated urbanisation with lack of and/or breakdown of water and sanitation facilities increase the risk of water and vector-borne disease outbreaks.

3. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND COORDINATION

3.1. National / local response and involvement

Regional level: Regional and national authorities have been improving their coordination to better respond to and prepare for emergencies. In 2024, SADC produced a regional appeal to respond to the El Nino related drought, supporting national authorities in their effort to mobilise humanitarian funding through a coordinated regional response plan. The technical capacities of the different SADC units also include climate forecasting and alerts, with support of other institutions such as research institutes and regional/national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHS). In terms of support to response operations, the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC) is looking at increasing its capacities. There is however a need to further strengthen SHOC capacity to respond. The SADC Disaster Risk Reduction Unit has the mandate to develop effective frameworks and programmes to facilitate disaster risk management (DRM) coordination, implementation (including the Sendai Framework for

disaster risk reduction - DRR), monitoring and evaluation, as well as mainstreaming of DRR into development policies and programmes of the Member States. The 2016-2030 SADC Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy and Fund describes the regional priorities and highlights key gaps to be addressed, e.g., a regional DRM data system, a regional disaster response mechanism and a Regional Emergency Response Team. There is however a need to improve the operationalisation of the strategy and promote further coordination between disaster preparedness and response structures at regional and national levels.

National level: Governments continue to face some difficulties to provide complete preparedness and responses due to uneven technical capacity of the National Disaster Management Authorities (NDMA), ineffective coordination, insufficient resources, delayed communication/dissemination, and various limitations within the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS).

3.2. International Humanitarian Response

Funding appeals 2024	Amount (million USD)	Funding level as of July 2024 (%)
Mozambique Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2024	413.4	21.5
Madagascar Flash Appeal 2024	162.2	34.2
Zimbabwe Drought Flash Appeal 2024	45.5	10.6
Zambia Drought Flash Appeal 2024	228.3	6
Mozambique Drought Flash Appeal 2024	222	TBC
Government of Malawi - El Niño induced prolonged dry spells and floods response appeal 2024 (Malawi)	446,74	4.8
Malawi Drought Flash Appeal 2024	136.5	21.8

In 2024, the most important donors for food assistance in the region are USA (Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs/USAID), EU/ECHO, EU Member States (such as Ireland, Sweden, Germany), UK, Japan, Russia and China.

The main donors involved in disaster preparedness/mitigation in the SAIO region are the EU (DG-ECHO and DG INTPA) and its Member States (such as Germany, Ireland, Belgium), UK, USA (USAID/OFDA), the World Bank/ Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), the UN and the Irish Northern Aid Committee (NORAID), with long-term development strategies with some integrating wider climate change adaptation programmes.

On the Cabo Delgado crisis, the main humanitarian donors are USAID, the EU, Germany, UK, Ireland, Switzerland, Canada, Sweden, and the Central Emergency Respond Funds (CERF). On the Grand-Sud and Grand Sud-Est of Madagascar crisis, the main humanitarian donors are US, the EU including its Member States (France, Sweden and Germany) and the CERF.

Humanitarian coordination: OCHA is present in Mozambique, Madagascar, Zambia and Zimbabwe and at regional level with its Regional Office for SAIO based in Nairobi. There is a

need to invest more on prevention and management of disasters induced by natural and human hazards and call for more coordination and operationalisation of the nexus within the EU integrated approach and throughout the region. In Mozambique, there is a need to foster effective coordination between the different actors on the ground and guide political and military actors in supporting the humanitarian actions in favour of the affected populations. In Madagascar, there is a need to gather and document data to guide and improve coordination efforts. Furthermore, providing structural support and tools to authorities, strengthening integrated approaches, and maximizing the impact of limited funds through partner cooperation and coordination systems are recommended actions. Supporting SADC and enhancing their technical coordination capabilities is also encouraged.

3.3. Humanitarian Coordination (Operational constraints)

Access/humanitarian space

Transport infrastructures in the SAIO region differ significantly from one country to another. The SAIO is composed of both landlocked and non-landlocked countries. The road infrastructure in the SAIO region is generally better than elsewhere in Africa. However, during cyclone emergencies, torrential rains, landslides and floods cause destruction of infrastructures, including bridges and roads, which accentuates the isolation of several areas resulting in an increase in transport costs and significant delays in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Particularly challenging in Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique is the last mile delivery which is hindered by the lack of adequate transport means (trucks and boats) or the long distance between humanitarian hotspots and warehousing facilities. Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe have active Logistics Clusters or Working Groups in country led by WFP and in some instances co-led by the Government.

In Northern Mozambique, humanitarian actors are operating in a complex environment where access is severely impaired by a very volatile security context and by logistical constraints. Moreover, given the impact of armed groups' attacks on humanitarian operations, there is a need to scale up security measures for humanitarian personnel and ensure adherence of humanitarian actions to sound and ethical risk transfer frameworks. Given the presence of a large range of armed forces and groups on the ground (including the army, special police forces, local militia, regional military troops, as well as non-state armed groups), a solid and effective civil-military coordination along with engagement and negotiation with local stakeholders is essential to ensure the protection of civilians and humanitarian workers and access, and to promote a principled humanitarian response in such a complex setting.

UNHAS is providing crucial services to move personnel and cargo to humanitarian hotspots. Additionally Mozambique is prone to climate-induced shocks such as cyclonic activity (flooding) as well as drought. Cabo Delgado offers opportunities to improve the mutualization of logistics and to create common approaches for more efficient and sustainable supply chain management.

Madagascar is marked by climatic shocks reaching from cyclonic impact, flooding and drought. Road and even air access to many parts of the country is difficult or impossible. The road network is in disrepair and non-existent in many parts of the country. UNHAS has been

increasing its activities due to the lack of reliable domestic flight services. Collaboration and common approaches within the humanitarian and development community are rare.

Partners (presence, capacity), including absorption capacity on the ground

Major humanitarian partners are present in the region. However, for the Cabo Delgado crisis in Mozambique specifically, there is a need for partners to continue their operations in underserved Cabo Delgado districts severely affected by the ongoing conflict, and to continue advocating for better access in the ones currently out of reach. In Madagascar, the access of certain areas, particularly in the Grand Sud-Est is limited, thus limiting the presence of the partners and the response capacities. Protection-oriented and conflict-sensitive approaches need to be further strengthened in Northern Mozambique and Madagascar. Overall, there are no major problems in terms of absorption capacity among DG ECHO partners, which usually collaborate in a constructive way with local authorities and NGOs, private sector and universities.

Other

Humanitarian organisations may operate in a context with risks related to instrumentalisation of humanitarian assistance and access, corruption, aid diversion, fraud and sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, and all partners must therefore take adequate prevention and control measures. The appraisal of proposals will also be informed by past assessment of implementation and monitoring mechanisms proposed to prevent these risks, as well as the context of intervention, geographical locations, and identified needs. DG ECHO partners are expected to actively cooperate in reporting immediately any such issues as well as effectively prevent, detect and correct these situations.

4. HUMANITARIAN – DEVELOPMENT – PEACE NEXUS

The SAIO region has extensive examples of how the humanitarian-development-peace nexus or integrated approach have been and continue to be operationalised. Furthermore, approaches promoted by DG ECHO and integrated in EU development programmes such as crisis modifiers (CM) are concrete ways to achieve nexus and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of combined humanitarian and development programmes. Country specific examples of ongoing nexus opportunities in Mozambique, Madagascar and at regional level are hereafter presented and included in the response strategy presented in this HIP.

i. Mozambique

The EU is implementing an integrated approach to respond to the multi-dimensional needs of the populations affected by the armed violence in Cabo Delgado. Such integrated approach encompassing humanitarian, development, peacebuilding, and security interventions often complementing each other, gives opportunities for expansion and stronger nexus such as in the sector of nutrition, food security, education and resilience to climate change. Mozambique is the only country in the region where this EU integrated approach is being implemented.

Under the **security component**, for example, the EU military training mission in Mozambique (EUTM) integrated the roll-out of training modules on protection of civilians, International Humanitarian Law and human rights for military actors – including beneficiaries of European Peace Facility (EPF) equipment, which complemented and provided opportunities to scale up

humanitarian efforts to roll-out protection services in conflict-affected districts as well as to enhance Civil-Military Coordination in the areas of humanitarian operations. Currently extended until 2026, the Mission is transitioning to an assistance model combining advising, mentoring and specialised training in support of the units of the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) of the Mozambican Armed Forces. Consequently, the Mission will be renamed the European Union Military Assistance Mission Mozambique (EUMAM Mozambique).

Complementarity between DG ECHO and DG INTPA actions is a paramount example of how joining efforts and geographical convergence enables to meet acute needs and life-saving interventions while focusing on system strengthening, including on Disaster Risk Management, and improving community engagement to enhance social cohesion. Such opportunities cover different sectors, including nutrition, food security, WASH, education and climate resilience. Nexus efforts aims at reducing poverty and improving access to basic services and thus addressing the root causes of the conflict and fostering peace and social cohesion.

The multi-annual indicative programme (MIP) 2025-2027 of the **EU development cooperation** in Mozambique with an allocation of EUR 221 million includes a comprehensive package also targeting the North of Mozambique. Many of the ongoing interventions are already complementing DG ECHO humanitarian assistance and provide opportunities for further expansion to districts/communities chronically underserved and in which meagre resources were heavily affected by the conflict. Furthermore, the EU support to education (priority area under the MIP) offers nexus opportunities with DG ECHO Education in Emergencies interventions implemented in Northern Mozambique.

On the peace component and social cohesion, in continuation of recent years efforts under the EU Foreign Policy Instrument (FPI) on conflict prevention and learning opportunities for children, a dedicated component of the MIP will address the strengthening of the justice system.

ii. Madagascar

In Madagascar, nexus opportunities lie in the joint efforts to find sustainable solutions to address the acute levels of food and nutrition insecurity. The DG INTPA's Green Deal action will continue supporting the resilience of the population and institutions. Both DG ECHO emergency responses and DG INTPA's Green Deal actions are aligned with the new national policy on sustainable food systems which has been developed thanks to EU funding and technical support from FAO and CIRAD¹⁵. Complementarities and synergies are also contemplated in the reinforcement of the early warning system in the Grand Sud, for climate change adaptation and for the protection of affected people, building a continuum of care for GBV survivors with health and social protection.

Collaboration between DG ECHO and DG INTPA is also developed in the strengthening of the national health system and its capacity to manage crises and adapt to emergency response (importance of free health care during a crisis; establishment of medicine stockpile – INTPA/AFD).

Moreover, long-awaited development projects are beginning in the Grand Sud, creating a momentum for the nexus approach such as water infrastructure projects (Mionjo Project by World Bank), resilience investments (USAID, EU Green Deal), and nutritional improvement

¹⁵ CIRAD is the French agricultural research and cooperation organisation working for the sustainable development of tropical and Mediterranean regions.

initiatives (World Bank's *Projet d'Amélioration des Résultats Nutritionnels -PARN*). The World Bank funded the expansion of conditional social protection in Vatovavy and Fitovinany; the implementation already initiated by the *Fond d'Intervention pour le Développement (FID)* with an important support measure/ component for human development in the Grand Sud-Est.

iii. Regional / Multi-country

From 2023, DG ECHO supported the Regional Anticipatory Action Working Group. The group supports coordination and synergy between humanitarian and development actors, and in particular it facilitated the triggering of the response to the 2024 El Nino induced drought. The DG ECHO Disaster Preparedness programming has consolidated partnerships developed over time with National Disaster Management Agencies and regional donor initiatives related to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (e.g. the Resilience building and Disaster Response Management in the Indian Ocean programme) and will foster the establishment of new synergies, for instance with the regional DG INTPA programme RE2CLID (Regional Responses to Climate Displacement) focusing on improved disaster forecasts and management, improved governance of natural resources and improved self-reliance of displaced persons in Mozambique, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles and Comoros.

There are also synergies with SADC initiatives supported by EU funds to develop further the regional climate prediction and climate services offered. Such collaboration with SADC and SHOC will also be further explored by DG ECHO to scale up the EU nexus strategy at regional level.

Synergies with other development actors (such as DG INTPA and the World Bank) promoting and strengthening social safety nets have also been developed in order to support the creation of shock responsive social protection existing schemes, bridging the response gaps between emergencies and development such as in Lesotho and could be replicated in other countries.

5. ENVISAGED DG ECHO RESPONSE STRATEGY AND EXPECTED RESULTS OF HUMANITARIAN AID INTERVENTIONS

5.1. Envisaged DG ECHO response

5.1.1 Priorities

The HIP 2025 for the SAIO region evolves from the HIP 2024, taking into consideration lessons learned and context developments. In that respect, the focus for humanitarian assistance will remain on Mozambique and Madagascar, which are the main humanitarian hotspots in the region requiring a dedicated emergency response. The security situation in Northern Mozambique continues to be highly volatile, due to a resurgence of attacks against military and civilians in larger and previously pacified areas of Cabo Delgado. In Madagascar, close to 2 million people in the Grand Sud and the Grand Sud-Est are highly vulnerable and food insecure requiring special attention. In addition, the HIP 2025 will fund humanitarian response to uncovered regional needs from the 2024 El Niño-induced drought.

The strategy is composed of three mutually reinforcing pillars:

Pillar 1 (Emergency Response) will cover multi-sectoral response to climate and human-induced disasters affecting Mozambique and Madagascar as well as providing humanitarian

assistance to the uncovered humanitarian needs in hotspots impacted areas by the regional El Niño crisis of 2024 and potential impact from La Niña of late 2024-early 2025. **Pillar 2 (Education in Emergencies)** will target Malawi and Zimbabwe (and possibly other countries) for the preparation, anticipation and response through education and child protection services following disruptions caused by shocks. **Pillar 3 (Disaster Preparedness)** will include the following priorities:

- i.strengthening earlier or ongoing initiatives aiming at scaling-up functional anticipatory action mechanisms and tools;
- ii.support to epidemic preparedness in country previously affected by large-scale outbreaks through the enhancement of disease surveillance, data management, logistics and human resources;
- iii.support to a regional response capacity by strengthening existing initiatives through the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC);

To summarise, the 2025 HIP structure is as follows:

Pillars	Countries covered
Pillar 1: Emergency Response	Madagascar, Mozambique and Regional
Pillar 2: Education in Emergencies (EiE)	Multi-country (Malawi, Zimbabwe and others)
Pillar 3: Disaster Preparedness (DP)	Regional and multi-country

Actions combining the different pillar priorities could be envisaged.

In the event of unforeseen or sudden-onset events, emergency responses to new crises in the region will be supported as needed and should more funding become available. In addition, crisis modifiers are embedded in the actions supported in SAIO to give a degree of flexibility to respond to a sudden-onset crisis.

Synergies with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and collaboration with the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), particularly to support the regional initiatives and increase multi-country response capacities, nexus opportunities with other EU instruments and the authorities will be explored where practical and feasible.

Crosscutting priorities for all actions: i) Adherence to humanitarian principles; ii) Protection mainstreaming¹⁶ and accountability; iii) Prevent corruption, aid diversion and fraud; iv) Use of innovative and green solutions as well as technologies aimed at enhancing efficiency; v) Coordination and alignment with national policies and guidelines; vi) Nexus; vii) Visibility and communication; viii) The application of the minimum environmental requirements in project proposals (cross-cutting and sector-specific) is mandatory and it will weigh into the appraisal of projects. The environmental impacts of a specific humanitarian response should be mitigated across sectors, projects and programmes and mainstreamed across the response activities with the goal of reducing their environmental footprint; ix) Under its localisation agenda, DG ECHO encourages proposals that include capacity strengthening and capacity sharing methodologies and initiatives, including institutional capacity strengthening of local/national actors. Similarly, DG ECHO will support partners in providing local/national actors with safety- and security-related resources and equipment to mitigate risks, including

¹⁶ Refer to ECHO Protection guidance note and toolkit

safety- and security-related training, where such costs are shown to contribute to achieving the objectives of the action.

<i>Pillar 1: Emergency response</i>
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Priority 1: Northern Mozambique (Cabo Delgado crisis) – multi-sectoral and life-saving humanitarian assistance

In response to the consequences of the Cabo Delgado crisis, an integrated and **coordinated multisectoral humanitarian assistance** will be supported with priority on covering food and basic unmet needs of the most vulnerable, underserved and hard-to-reach People of Concern (PoC).

This priority focuses on delivering conflict-sensitive life-saving humanitarian assistance to underserved and under-reached districts affected by conflict in Cabo Delgado. The main districts of focus include Nangade, Mueda, Muidumbe, Meluco, Macomia, Moçimboa da Praia, Quissanga, and Ibo, with flexibility to expand to other areas as conflict dynamics evolve and displacement occurs.

Actions must prioritise conflict-sensitive approaches in targeting and in the response modalities across all sectors to safeguard social cohesion. Protection measures should be strongly integrated into all actions to mitigate any identified protection risk. Robust complaint and feedback mechanisms are therefore expected to be in place.

Strengthening Emergency and Rapid Response Mechanisms (E/RRMs) continues to be crucial for rapidly delivering multi-sectoral humanitarian aid to affected communities in hard-to-reach conflict affected areas. Response strategies for E/RRMs should include rapid needs assessments inclusive of protection assessments, and an agile, context-appropriate response preferably through multi-purpose cash transfer/ cash and voucher assistance (MPCT/CVA).

The priority sectors for the emergency response will be:

- i. **Humanitarian Food Assistance** with focus on addressing food gaps through vulnerability-based targeting and the preferential use of multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA).
- ii. **Nutrition** with priority to treatment of acute malnutrition and to support supply chains and last-mile delivery and integration with the basic health services.
- iii. **WASH** to ensure conflict-sensitive safe access to water and emergency sanitation to underserved/unreached conflict areas.
- iv. **Protection** to prevent, identify and respond to violence and abuse, including mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS), GBV, Child Protection, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). The risk education on hazards like mines and explosive remnants will also be integrated.
- v. **Shelter** with support for resilient shelter solutions preferably through MPCT/CVA and active involvement of communities in construction and management.

Partnerships with local actors will enhance community acceptance and possibly bridge access gaps to hard-to-reach unserved communities. In this regard, partners are expected to operate in adherence to ethical risk-sharing frameworks and enhance safety and security standards. Effective coordination – including civil-military – continued analysis of the conflict dynamics

and of the security environments will be pivotal in delivering humanitarian aid. Coordination efforts between humanitarian actors will be strengthened through facilitating information sharing and maximising operational synergies among partners.

Priority 2: Madagascar (Great South and Southeast) – addressing acute humanitarian needs

DG ECHO aims to reduce mortality and morbidity by addressing severe food insecurity, malnutrition, maternal and child health, and epidemics in the key regions of Madagascar of the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est. The strategy focuses on integrated health and nutrition interventions tailored to vulnerable populations. It also considers multi-purpose cash programmes to transition from emergency aid to sustained support. To foster resilience amongst communities and aid efficiency, actions should integrate the following elements: protection measures especially for children, pregnant and lactating women, including preventing abuse; measures to prevent aid diversion; comprehensive logistics support for timely delivery of supplies with capacity building for local partners; and enhanced coordination and strategic logistics solutions to improve response efficiency with robust monitoring to mitigate risks and uphold standards of conduct. Support to livelihoods can be envisioned in areas where a transition to existing longer term livelihoods programme is possible and after an assessment of the socio-economic conditions of the most vulnerable populations (particularly women heads of households).

Priority 3: Multi-country assistance to El Niño and La Niña most affected populations – multi-sectoral and life-saving humanitarian assistance

This regional and multi-country priority focuses on addressing acute humanitarian needs exacerbated by El Niño-induced droughts and potential La Niña-related extreme weather shocks. The main objective is to reduce excess mortality and morbidity rates while providing essential protection assistance to severely affected communities. Key actions include an integrated approach combining humanitarian food assistance with immediate health and nutrition interventions to deliver lifesaving medical care, nutritional support, and critical health services. Rapid epidemic response strategies are also considered to manage disease outbreaks effectively. Integrated responses may incorporate targeted emergency multi-purpose cash programmes to support transition from emergency aid to sustained assistance like social protection and other existing safety net programmes, including those run by governments. Protection measures are integral across all activities. Priority is placed on comprehensive approaches integrating Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), health, nutrition, and food security to maximise impact. Capacity building for local partners through training and technical support aims to strengthen their ability to manage and implement effective humanitarian responses should be supported. Focus areas include regions severely affected by malnutrition, food insecurity, and epidemics, requiring urgent humanitarian support and intervention.

<i>Pillar 2: Education in emergencies (EiE)</i>
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Preparedness, anticipation and response to ensure continuity of education in Malawi and Zimbabwe and others

In the framework of integrated multi-sectoral emergency responses to shocks, a multi-country initiative should ensure consistent educational support for children facing disruptions due to

crises/shocks in Malawi, Zimbabwe and any other countries which partners may argue are necessary to support and promote experience sharing between countries. The action should span a minimum of 24 months and target at least 50% girls, with flexibility based on specific needs. Countries already supported by ongoing EiE actions funded by DG ECHO will not be considered. It emphasises on integrating child protection measures within all education activities, focusing on out-of-school, displaced, and vulnerable children, including those with disabilities, in line with EU guidelines. The priority has two primary components:

- i. enhancing the readiness of national and local education systems to anticipate emergencies and provide emergency education services during crises, including through Anticipatory Action;
- ii. activating these systems through pre-identified local partners immediately following a forecast or a shock.

Collaboration with capable local organisations ensures comprehensive geographic and sectoral coverage. These partners will be empowered to deliver swift and quality EiE responses, transitioning responsibilities to authorities and other actors after the acute phase.

Critical to the intervention are hazard-specific triggers for response activation and very clear exit strategies, ensuring EiE efforts are limited to acute phases only. Structural educational issues are excluded, aligning with the programme's emergency-focused mandate. DG ECHO Disaster Preparedness guidelines and other programmatic priorities under this HIP encourage integration into existing preparedness and available Anticipatory Action frameworks. The intervention prioritises creating child-protective environments and post-shock safe learning spaces, integrating child protection and MHPSS services. It also emphasises linking emergency responses with long-term development programmes for sustainability and continuity of care. To safeguard children, robust child protection mechanisms are established, including PSEA frameworks and rapid feedback systems. Emergency supplies, strategically pre-positioned, include Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS), Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), recreational school, teaching materials, hygiene kits, all managed with environmental considerations in mind. The inclusion of environmentally-friendly activities in the day-to-day running of schools will be encouraged. Efforts extend to enhancing hosting schools' capacity to accommodate displaced learners, adapting infrastructure, and ensuring minimal disruption to education through school rehabilitation and retrofitting in close synergy with other funding streams (including development). Synergies between humanitarian aid and development assistance are leveraged to strengthen education systems and social protection services, fostering resilience in post-emergency phases.

<i>Pillar 3: Disaster Preparedness (DP)</i>
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Priority 1: Regional/multi-country – scaling up anticipatory action

DG ECHO will continue supporting the regional initiatives to scale-up anticipatory action in coordination with SADC, working through the Regional Anticipatory Action Working Group (RAAWG) with specific country activities such as in Madagascar, Lesotho and Zambia (in coordination with the RAAWG) and potential activities for cross learning and knowledge sharing with other countries of the region. It is important to continue strengthening national and regional preparedness capacities, building on previous actions/investments, including

support to the development and operationalisation of national multi-sectoral anticipatory action, including cash responses. Where feasible, anticipatory action approaches should be linked to shock responsive social protection systems and advocacy for reinforcement of existing protection systems to expand vertically and/or horizontally remains important. In Zimbabwe, the operationalisation of a shock response safety net, including a single registry for vulnerable people, to complement other programmes from development partners can also be considered. Partners are encouraged to implement and expand a multi-hazard approach to forecasting, including environmental risks, with a focus on impact-based forecasting to enable informed decision-making while raising awareness about the importance of ecosystem services in disaster risk reduction. Conducting comprehensive risk assessments to identify environmental issues that exacerbate hazards in a specific area will be an important added value.

Priority 2: Regional/multi-country – epidemic preparedness

The objective is to ensure the establishment of an operational framework capable of responding to the most likely disease outbreaks anticipated in 2025 and beyond, through support to national health systems. This includes enhancing surveillance, data management, logistics, and human resources, through a regional approach which should prioritize the most affected countries of recent outbreaks (Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

Priority 3: Regional/multi-country – regional support to SHOC

The objective is to strengthen the response capacities of the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC) and ensure it has the adequate tools and capacities to support affected countries to anticipate and respond to large-scale events. Supporting coordination mechanisms, ensuring rapid and efficient deployment and providing training and capacity-building that enhance environmental literacy among emergency responders, local authorities and community leaders will also be key. Joint preparedness with authorities and other stakeholders, informed by dynamic risk analysis of current and future climate change, environmental and conflict-related risks should be encouraged and promoted.

5.1.2 Programmatic Partnerships

In the logic of multi-annual strategic humanitarian projects, DG ECHO also supports programmatic partnerships, including on EiE and DP, and would consider such an approach within the SAIO HIP if partner organisations – NGOs with a DG ECHO programmatic partnership certificate, UN agencies and the Red Cross/Crescent family, and Member States' Specialised Agencies – demonstrate the strategic and/or innovative character of the action and the added value being achieved through such a longer-term partnership, in particular in terms of efficiency and effectiveness gains as described in the Guidance to Partners - DG ECHO Programmatic Partnerships 2024. A programmatic partnership can be implemented through multi-year funding (initial funding allocation for 24 months or more) or through a staged approach where funding is allocated annually. The added value of a longer-term approach will have to be demonstrated by the partners. Please see HIPTA section 3.e for technical and administrative details.

5.1.3. Multi-Year Funding

Despite an annual budget, DG ECHO continues to support multi-year projects (initial funding allocation for 24 months) in case the partner organisation demonstrates the efficiency gains and the operational logic of a longer-lasting project, as it is for example already the case with EiE and disaster preparedness projects that usually run for at least two years. Please see HIPTA sections 3.g and 4.d for technical and administrative details.

5.2. Other DG ECHO interventions

As of 2025, the HIP ReliefEU integrates ReliefEU Funding (formerly known as “Emergency Toolbox”) and ReliefEU Capabilities (formerly known as “European Humanitarian Response Capacities – EHRC”) into a single emergency response tool.

The aim of the ReliefEU Funding is to provide emergency funding for early action, where possible, and for response to new hazards/disasters (natural and human-made) that have led or are likely to lead to a major loss of life, physical, psychological or social suffering and/or material damage.

The objective of the ReliefEU Capabilities is to support humanitarian partners via the provision of specific services and capabilities. The operational tools are designed to provide rapid but temporary support to partners to fill operational gaps in the humanitarian response where the humanitarian community struggles to provide timely support, thus helping to cover immediate needs of the affected population and to strengthen humanitarian access with the provision of safe and reliable transport, logistics and supply chain solutions.

Moreover, and equally important to the above instruments, DG ECHO encourages further cooperation among DG ECHO partners on strategic humanitarian supply chain and logistics initiatives at country level by sharing information and pooling resources, actions that are highly recommended based on the adopted Humanitarian Logistics Policy. In particular, strengthening joint approaches such as common services, shared services or joint procurement, as they are key to achieving efficiency and effectiveness gains. This requires humanitarian actors to collaborate instead of having parallel supply chains with individual warehousing, transport, or procurement solutions. Other important stakes behind supply chain and logistics for which a strategic consideration is key are greening, digitalization or localization.