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COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

on the follow-up of the Communication on the EU's Humanitarian Action: new challenges, same principles

Follow up-report to the Communication on the EU's humanitarian action: new challenges, same principles

Foreword by the European Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janez Lenarčič

In March 2021, the European Commission adopted a ***Communication on the European Union's humanitarian action***[1]*, setting out a strategic vision for the European Union's role as a humanitarian actor. The context could not have been more alarming: according to the United Nations,* ***humanitarian needs*** *are at an all-time high*[2]*. Already in 2021, 235 million people were estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance worldwide*[3] *- 40% more than in 2020 and three times as many as in 2014. In 2022, the situation has become even more dramatic: more than 274 million people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance*[4]*. Persistent conflict in many parts of the world (not least in Europe's wider neighbourhood), climate change, population growth, failed governance and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic mean that for hundreds of millions of people, struggling to survive in a context of crisis and displacement is the new (and often the old) normal. Worryingly, the* ***resources*** *available to support humanitarian action are not keeping up with the rapidly-expanding needs – in fact the* ***gap between needs and global humanitarian funding is widening****. Moreover, attacks on civilians, civilian infrastructure and humanitarian workers are becoming more commonplace in many conflicts.*

It is against this backdrop that we set out a clear agenda in our Communication for the EU's humanitarian action for the years to come. To broaden the donor base for humanitarian action, both inside and beyond the EU. To step up our efforts to promote International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in conflicts. To make sure the assistance we support represents the best possible value for money for the people we serve and for European taxpayers, while having the greatest possible impact on the ground and strengthening local humanitarian actors. And to project a strong European voice and presence on humanitarian issues around the world.

This Staff Working Document takes stock of the progress made one year after the adoption of the Communication. I believe we have come a long way on many of the objectives we set ourselves. While the ***funding base*** *for humanitarian action remains highly concentrated and imbalanced, a number of our Member States increased their humanitarian contributions in 2021 – some very significantly. Over the past year, we have stepped up our outreach to and dialogue with non-European donors, both traditional and emerging. We have also worked on* ***using resources more efficiently and effectively*** *and commenced work on a new* ***European Humanitarian Response Capacity***[5] *to address specific gaps in humanitarian response in complementarity with the work done by our partners. As regards* ***International Humanitarian Law (IHL)****, we have worked across the EU institutions and with our Member States on improving compliance with IHL - highlighting the need for better monitoring of IHL violations, working to step up due diligence on IHL compliance in the EU's support for security actors outside the EU, and putting in place an IHL coordination mechanism within the Commission. We have progressed further on rolling out the* ***humanitarian-development-***

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/hacommunication2021.pdf
[2] 2022 Global Humanitarian Overview, https://gho.unocha.org/
[3] https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-humanitarian-overview-2021-enarfres
[4] 2022 Global Humanitarian Overview, https://gho.unocha.org/
[5] Annex III to this Staff Working Document

***peace nexus**, which is no longer a theoretical concept, but now consistently informs the way different EU funding channels work together to ensure basic services and livelihoods are supported in a sustainable way and build resilience to shocks in situations of fragility. Finally, as proposed in the Communication, we will organise, jointly with the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the first **European Humanitarian Forum**[6] on 21-23 March, which should now become an annual platform for a strategic exchange between the EU's political decision-makers and the wider international humanitarian community on key humanitarian challenges.*

I wish to thank all of our humanitarian partners, the EU Member States and the European Parliament for their engagement in taking forward the agenda we set out in the Communication. There is no room for complacency as conflicts and other crises take an ever-greater toll on people and communities around the world. But we have made a good start to ensuring that the EU maximises its impact in helping to respond.

[6] European Humanitarian Forum (EHF) (europa.eu))

Implementation of the Communication on the European Union's humanitarian action: new challenges, same principles

Progress report after one year

Objective: Promote flexible and efficient humanitarian action and funding mechanisms

In the Communication, the European Commission reiterated its commitments to the **Grand Bargain**[7], a shared commitment by donors and humanitarian organisations to bring down transaction costs and make humanitarian aid even more impactful for the benefit of people in need. The Commission has continued delivering on its commitments, in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has piloted use of the common '8+3 reporting template', used by a growing number of donors and aid agencies, in the context of the pilot Programmatic Partnerships[8] with international organisations. It continued supporting people-centred needs assessments and has made progress on **multi-annual funding** through longer-duration 'Education in Emergencies' and disaster risk reduction-related actions, as well as through the new generation of pilot Programmatic Partnerships.

In line with the Grand Bargain commitment to support **local responders**, the Commission renewed its contributions to the **Country-Based Pooled Funds** (CBPF)[9] in South Sudan and Ukraine in 2021. Moving forward, the Commission plans to assess its future contributions to CBPFs in line with its strategic priorities. The Commission is also developing guidance on promoting equal partnerships with local responders. An initial discussion is set to take place during the upcoming European Humanitarian Forum (EHF). Key issues to be addressed by donors and partners include support to local partners' institutional capacities, adequate resourcing of frontline responses, the promotion of stronger and accountable local empowerment as well as equal partnerships between international and local organisations. The guidance will take an inclusive and gender sensitive approach, and will pay special attention to women-led organisations and other marginalised groups, the recognition of local organisations' qualifications and the exploration of localised financing models. Participation in humanitarian coordination mechanisms, the involvement of local partners in the humanitarian response cycle, and safety and security will feature as other key elements of the guidance.

The Communication promoted the use of **digital tools** to drive more efficient, effective and accountable humanitarian assistance. The Commission has reviewed the use of digital tools in EU-funded humanitarian aid operations - an analysis of the risks and opportunities of scaling up digital tools will be further examined in the context of the European Humanitarian Forum. Discussions with partners have identified key enabling factors underpinning digitalisation that should be the focus of donor support.

[7] https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain

[8] The pilot Programmatic Partnerships are enhanced, more strategic partnerships, offering a multi-year, multi-country perspective based on a longer-term logic of intervention. The pilot Programmatic Partnerships promote certain aspects of the Grand Bargain, such as localisation and a participatory approach, increased efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of assistance, and the promotion of a joined-up approach with development actors (nexus), of joint needs analysis and of the use of cash.

[9] https://www.unocha.org/our-work/humanitarian-financing/country-based-pooled-funds-cbpf

The Commission will further elaborate its policy on digital approaches in humanitarian aid in 2022. A first step – the interoperability of humanitarian systems – is already being addressed through the Enhanced Response Capacity programme for 2021. The Commission will also provide digital guidance in the **thematic cash policy guidance** to be adopted in the second quarter of 2022, in particular relating to the interoperability of systems and data responsibility.

With regard to innovative financing to **leverage funds from the private sector and financial markets**, the Commission has decided to support humanitarian partners in developing pilot projects via the 2021 Enhanced Response Capacity (ERC), funding projects aimed at developing refugee livelihoods in Jordan and Uganda, and supporting investments in water facilities serving refugee communities in Jordan. Following extensive consultations with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) in 2021, the Commission aims to fund pilot initiatives led by IFIs in 2022. These will help assess the extent to which blended financing offers a promising avenue for widening the humanitarian resource base in certain contexts.

Objective: Ensure that EU humanitarian aid can be delivered swiftly and efficiently to those in need

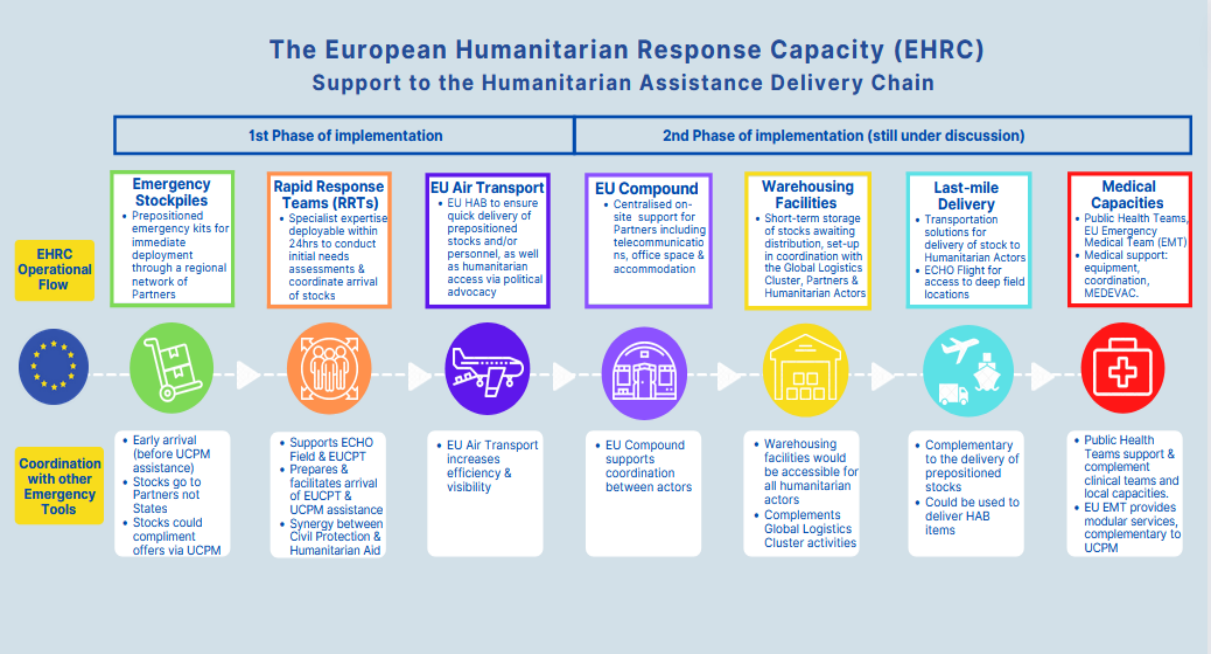
The Communication set out the objective of launching a **European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC)**. This initiative will enable the Commission to intervene directly to fill critical gaps in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, drawing on the experience and capacities of both humanitarian aid and civil protection.

The two main objectives of the EHRC are:

- To enable more rapid, targeted and direct EU interventions, directly triggered and steered by the Commission to improve the humanitarian response and fill gaps in the aftermath of a natural or human-induced disaster, as well as in situations of protracted crisis with new developments; and
- To show stronger EU leadership in steering and deciding on the delivery of humanitarian assistance, triggering Team Europe Initiatives to support the EU's overall role as global actor and its political and diplomatic leverage in the context of crises (humanitarian advocacy).

To achieve these objectives, the EHRC will address weaknesses and barriers within the humanitarian logistics and supply chain. The EHRC includes several separate tools for a phased implementation following a coherent intervention strategy. They can be adjusted to accommodate different scenarios. The tools can be activated independently or deployed together as a package. Speed and flexibility will be essential in the use of the EHRC.

The development of the EHRC should also increase overall EU visibility in crisis response and create new opportunities for communicating the EU's interventions to a wider public.



The EHRC will have a phased approach. The first three pillars to be launched are:

- **Prepositioned stockpiles** – Strategically located emergency items that can be quickly deployed to fill gaps before other stocks arrive;
- **A reinforced EU Humanitarian Air Bridge (HAB)** – More systematic and broader implementation of the HAB, which was originally an initiative set up in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, offering free, pooled transport of humanitarian items in challenging contexts, also acting as an advocacy tool and drawing attention to the constraints of a crisis; and
- **Rapid Response Teams** – building on the Commission's existing humanitarian field network, to support the response to emergencies with dedicated field teams.

Work is ongoing to have these components operational in the first half of 2022.

Additional tools will be developed in a second phase, in close consultation with the humanitarian community and EU Member States, following dedicated feasibility assessments. Possible EHRC strands may include the provision of additional technical expertise and common services (e.g. last-mile delivery), strengthened coordination on the ground to deliver and distribute assistance, as well as the provision of health expertise and capacities.

The Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) in the Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Operations (DG ECHO) will manage the EHRC, thus ensuring close coordination and complementarity with the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). The EHRC would in fact fill a gap between the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the humanitarian donor role of the Commission, with the provision of selected, complementary and rapidly deployable humanitarian assistance capacities.

At the same time, the EHRC will allow the Commission to foster a Team Europe approach. The EHRC offers an opportunity for Member States to join forces and to provide tangible joint services, such as the creation of joint stockpiles, and the activation of joint EU HABs.

Moreover, the EHRC's advocacy objectives would be enhanced by joint alignment on specific and tangible advocacy positions.

The EHRC would not seek to duplicate existing capacities and will adhere to a needs-based approach in line with the humanitarian principles. The humanitarian sector comprises many well-resourced, specialised and effective response actors, each with their own initiatives and niche capabilities. The EHRC tools will therefore be tailored to areas that would benefit from either a reinforcement or a change in working modalities to complement existing response capacities, as a safety net, thus bringing added value to existing capacities.

The development of the EHRC is closely linked to the new **Humanitarian Logistics Policy**[10] launched by the European Commission at the end of January 2022. This policy sets out a vision for how the humanitarian sector as a whole can update its approach to logistics to support a more efficient, effective and green humanitarian response.

Objective: Further mainstream climate change impacts and environmental factors into humanitarian aid policy and practice and strengthen coordination with development, security and climate/environment actors to build resilience of vulnerable communities.

The Communication highlighted the dramatic impact of **climate change** on humanitarian needs, and set out how the Commission can further adapt its humanitarian response to the growing and shifting needs engendered by climate change and environmental crises in many parts of the world. The Commission is now factoring climate and environmental risk considerations consistently into humanitarian operations. To this end, one of the priorities of the dedicated budget line for preparedness in the EU humanitarian aid budget focuses on climate and environmental resilience (including greening of humanitarian assistance) for the period 2021-2024. In line with this, the Commission has also revised its Resilience Marker.[11]

In line with the recently revised approach to disaster preparedness, the Commission is also promoting the mainstreaming of **anticipatory action** as an operational modality throughout EU-funded humanitarian operations. Anticipatory action is also included among the funding priorities of the Disaster Preparedness Budget Line for 2021-2024. Linked to this, EU development programmes support longer-term activities such as the application of Earth observation, strengthening of early warning systems and the generation of climate services, which are prerequisites for anticipatory action (e.g. determining thresholds and triggers for such actions) and for mainstreaming climate risk considerations into humanitarian operations.

For 2021, the Commission assigned specific funding for anticipatory action also as part of its Enhanced Response Capacity (ERC) tool, with a focus on testing and scaling up the implementation of anticipatory tools in specific contexts such as conflict, urban or displacement situations. Concurrently, two dedicated programmatic partnerships with specific anticipatory action components have been signed with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

[10]https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/humanitarian_logistics_thematic_policy_document_en.pdf
[11] A tool that supports humanitarian partners in ensuring that preparedness measures, climate and environmental risk considerations are integrated in projects throughout the design of their interventions. Please see: https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/ngo/action-proposal/fill-in-the-single-form/8-resilience-marker

In 2022, the Commission will explore ways to scale up support to anticipatory action within existing financing tools and will work on the development of new financing mechanisms. From 2023 onwards, the Commission plans to put in place a dedicated component for anticipatory funding as part of its 'emergency toolbox', which provides initial humanitarian funding for sudden-onset disasters.

Even before the adoption of the Communication, and pursuant to the European Green Deal,[12] the Commission had adopted an approach to **reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid** in 2020, through mainstreaming environmental considerations across projects, programmes and organisational management, and mitigating environmental impacts by taking a precautionary approach[13]. In 2021, the Commission also developed a Compendium of good practices for a greener humanitarian response and an online self-led training on Greening Humanitarian Aid[14].

The Commission released minimum environmental requirements and recommendations for partners, and signed on as a supporter of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations[15]. Together with France, it also launched an equivalent declaration for donors.

Finally, to better prepare for the humanitarian impacts of climate change, the Commission has further strengthened complementarities between humanitarian actions on preparedness and related development and peace interventions following a nexus approach[16].

Objective: Ensure that humanitarian, development, peace and other policies all work together to better link urgent relief and longer-term solutions, aiming at reducing needs and tackling the root causes of conflicts and crises.

The Communication sets out a number of specific steps to further strengthen the rollout of the **humanitarian-development-peace nexus** in the field – while noting that the nexus already informs many EU development and humanitarian programmes, as well as EU political and diplomatic relations, across a range of mostly protracted crises. The Communication thus calls for systematic EU joint analyses of the risks, needs, vulnerabilities and structural drivers of crisis as well as, when appropriate, joined-up programming and planning of EU policies. This will ensure a conflict-sensitive approach so that external assistance does not inadvertently reinforce conflict.

Since the adoption of the Communication, the nexus approach has notably been taken into account in the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe[17]) programming exercise through coordination of the Humanitarian

[12] COM/2019/640 final
[13] The precautionary principle is one of the principles that defines EU environmental law.
[14] https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/climate-change_en#ecl-inpage-971
[15] https://www.climate-charter.org/
[16] One concrete output, for instance, relates to DG ECHO's engagement with other Commission services providing development assistance in ensuring the inclusion of preparedness, climate and environmental concerns in their multi-year planning in order to seek better linkages with humanitarian action in these areas.
[17] Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1–78, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/947/oj

Implementation Plans, Multi-Annual Indicative Programmes and Annual Action Programmes[18].

The Commission has also continued contributing to work on conflict prevention and ensuring conflict sensitivity[19] and 'do no harm', including through the EU Conflict Early Warning System, designed to close the gap between early warning and early action, and which engages European External Action Service (EEAS) and Commission staff across services, both in Delegations and Headquarters, as well as in consultation with EU Member State representatives, in a joint assessment of conflict dynamics and conflict risks.[20]

[18] Examples of nexus implementation in a number of individual countries (including the six pilot countries for nexus implementation designated by the EU in 2017) are set out in Annex IV to the Staff Working Document.
[19] Article 12(2.b) of the NDICI-GE includes a requirement to conduct conflict analysis for the programming document for countries and regions in crisis, or post-crisis, and for fragile and vulnerable situations to ensure conflict sensitivity.
[20] This analytical process generates a conflict prevention report inclusive of preventative and conflict sensitive actions for different EU actors. Political dialogues anchored in the EU's international partnerships, which have proven useful in further exploring the intertwined dimensions of humanitarian, development, peace, security, human rights, migration and governance issues, also inform the process.

A number of recent initiatives also aim at promoting nexus approaches in specific sectors. The Global Network against Food Crises[21] and the "Fighting Food Crises along the HDP Nexus" coalition stemming from the UN Food Systems Summit[22] aim at improving coordination between humanitarian, development and peace actors to address and **prevent hunger**. Integrating **education** into the priority areas for the humanitarian-development-peace nexus is an ongoing commitment, which helps bridge the global investment gap on education alongside sectors such as health, food security, and areas such as disaster preparedness and climate resilience. A discussion on Education in Emergencies will take place at the EHF and will focus on building the resilience of education systems, stressing the need for a coordinated, long-term vision in the sector, and for strengthening quality educational outcomes and tools, including in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Expanding support for **cash-based, shock-responsive social safety nets** across the nexus helps enhance the efficiency and sustainability of humanitarian assistance when meeting the basic needs of affected populations. Alongside a mapping of existing programmes, the Commission will adopt **comprehensive cash guidance** in the first half of 2022 to take this endeavour forward.

In line with the Communication, the EU continued to strengthen effective **humanitarian civil-military coordination** as a framework to protect the humanitarian space, avoid duplication, minimise inconsistencies, and maximise potential synergies with security and defence actors. Jointly with key partners, the EU has intensified the exchange of best practices to **promote compliance with** IHL and mainstream protection of civilians in all related contexts.

Objective: Significantly increase the resource base for humanitarian action

The Communication and the subsequent Council Conclusions[23] expressed serious concern at the **growing gap between humanitarian needs and the resources available**, and underlined the urgent need to expand significantly the resource base for humanitarian action. Based on this, the Commission has stepped up its advocacy for substantially enhanced humanitarian financing and a better sharing of responsibility among donors, both within and outside the EU.

Since the adoption of the Communication, Member States and the Commission have started a constructive dialogue on how to pursue the objective of additional and more balanced humanitarian funding within the EU[24]. A number of EU Member States **increased their humanitarian funding significantly in 2021** compared with the previous year, as can be seen in Annex I.

[21] http://www.fightfoodcrises.net/,
[22] https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit
[23] Council Conclusions on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the EU's humanitarian action: new challenges, same principles, 8966/21, 20 May 2021, https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8966-2021-INIT/en/pdf
[24] *Idem*, para.5, the Council encouraged the Commission's and Member States' work towards securing additional humanitarian funding in order for the EU to maintain its leading role among global donors and to ensure a more sustainable and balanced sharing of humanitarian financing within the EU.

In a Team Europe spirit, the Commission has also worked with EU Member States to facilitate direct contributions from individual Member States to the EU budget as **external assigned revenue**. Several EU Member States, such as Austria, Estonia, Finland, France, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Portugal and Slovenia have been using this option in a number of different crises.

Within the overall context of the EU's relations with third countries, the Commission is pursuing a two-pronged approach, both through outreach to non-traditional donors and through continued engagement with established donors. The Commission has thus increased its dialogue with Arab donors, prioritising four important bilateral Gulf donors (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates), which account for 90% of the aid provided by Arab donors, as well as with key regional bodies and financial institutions.

As regards bilateral engagement with established donors, existing dialogues and exchanges with key donors such as the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Norway, Canada, Australia and New Zealand have been reinforced, to ensure that humanitarian and disaster response policies, approaches and funding strategies are complementary and promote better responsibility sharing.

As part of the EHF, a high-level panel discussion will take place on expanding the resource base, gathering representatives from a variety of donor governments, the United Nations and private sector actors.

Objective: Put compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL) at the heart of EU external action to protect civilian populations, support principled humanitarian action and protect humanitarian and health care workers.

The Communication called for the establishment of an **EU-level coordination mechanism on IHL** to ensure a better monitoring of violations, facilitate the coordination of EU actors and support stronger EU humanitarian diplomacy. The Commission thus established a dedicated inter-service group (ISG) on IHL in December 2021. The ISG will facilitate coordination across the Commission services and the EEAS on IHL, and will evaluate in which specific contexts IHL advocacy should be strengthened. It may also provide an opportunity to discuss specific IHL challenges, including situations of serious IHL violations.

The Commission has also promoted debate on how to enhance the monitoring of IHL compliance, notably through a side event[25] of the UN General Assembly in September 2021, organized jointly with France and Germany, and through a preparatory conference[26], held in November 2021, for the EHF. The issue will be further discussed at a planned high-level panel during the EHF. The event will discuss the possibility of supporting an **independent initiative to enhance the monitoring of IHL violations**. Commissioner Lenarčič is also launching a high-level initiative on IHL aimed at the G5 Sahel countries and Nigeria. The initiative seeks to promote coordinated action among key likeminded stakeholders to enhance respect for IHL, including through targeted diplomacy to ensure respect for human rights,

[25] https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york_en/104077/Ministerial%20Event:%20International%20Humanitarian%20Law%20-%20Enhancing%20Monitoring,%20Improving%20Compliance

[26] https://humanitarian.forum.europa.eu/international-humanitarian-law_en

compliance with IHL and safeguarding humanitarian space. Within the broad area of IHL compliance, the Commission is also promoting the **protection of education from attack** through our policies and strategies, as well as dedicated funding**,** and the **protection of children in armed conflict,** as well as the protection from sexual violence in armed conflict more specifically.[27]

In this context, it is worth noting the outcome document[28] of the discussion series on "Ensuring the protection, safety, and security of humanitarian workers and medical personnel in armed conflicts", held in New York throughout 2021 at the initiative of the European Union and a number of other Delegations to the United Nations. A dedicated session at the EHF will discuss the recommendations in order to explore the possibility to further secure commitments to address the issues in a comprehensive manner.

To further strengthen IHL compliance, the Commission services and EEAS are moreover implementing **IHL conditionality** requirements in the context of the European Peace Facility[29] and in the NDICI-Global Europe.

As noted in the Communication, the Commission will consider where appropriate, proposing to Council the inclusion of serious IHL violations as grounds for listing in **EU restrictive measures (sanctions) regimes,** while ensuring that any potentially negative impact on humanitarian activities is avoided. Over the first year of the Communication's implementation, the Commission has continued to provide further practical support to humanitarian organisations with regard to their rights and responsibilities in the different EU sanctions regimes to facilitate humanitarian assistance. This has included constructive dialogue with humanitarian operators, the private sector (including bank and regulatory entities), Member States and non-EU donors focused on bank de-risking, which is one of the most common unintended negative consequences of sanctions and other challenges to the effective delivery of humanitarian aid (e.g. Financial Action Task Force (FATF) listings, anti-money laundering obligations and non-compliance jurisdiction rules). It also encompassed ensuring that IHL is fully reflected in EU sanctions, among others, through the consistent inclusion of humanitarian exceptions in EU sanctions regimes and as well as further work towards an effective framework for the use of such exceptions by humanitarian organisations receiving EU funding.

Objective: Enhance the EU's engagement and leadership on humanitarian aid to maximise its impact

Against the backdrop of record humanitarian needs, EU unity and joint action are an important element in making the EU's humanitarian response more effective and efficient, in particular through humanitarian diplomacy initiatives at the bilateral, regional and

[27] This was the subject of a high-level side event, jointly organised with Belgium, in the margins of the 2021 UN General Assembly.
[28] https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/outcome_document_-_discussion_series.pdf
[29] Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/509 of 22 March 2021 establishing a European Peace Facility, and repealing Decision (CFSP) 2015/528, L 102/14, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?toc=OJ:L:2021:102:TOC&uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2021.102.01.0014.01.ENG#:~:text=A%20European%20Peace%20Facility%20%28the%20%E2%80%98Facility%E2%80%99%29%20is%20hereby,actions%20is%20not%20charged%20to%20the%20Union%20budget.

international levels. The EU and its Member States have continued to implement closely coordinated, joint approaches at international pledging conferences, while following a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach in protracted crises.

In May 2021, the EU and its Member States thus made a joint funding announcement of EUR 30 million at the launch of the 2021 Joint Response Plan for the **Rohingya** crisis in Bangladesh. At the June 2021 Pledging Conference on the **Venezuela** crisis, Commissioner Lenarčič[30] was able to announce a Team Europe contribution of EUR 294 million from the EU and 21 Member States. At the High-Level Ministerial meeting on **Afghanistan** on 13 September 2021, the EU and its Member States pledged a consolidated amount of EUR 677 million[31]. In addition, the EU has systematically sought to establish **common EU messages** on key humanitarian crises. In Afghanistan, after the Taliban takeover on 15 August 2021, common EU messages were agreed to advocate for IHL compliance by the de-facto authorities. On **Ethiopia**, the EU played a key leadership role in bringing major donors together at the highest level to advocate for access and respect of IHL, with two letters, signed by some 25 donors, sent in August and November 2021 to the Ethiopian authorities. A Senior Officials Meeting on 27 January 2022, co-organised by the EU, Denmark, Germany and UN OCHA, took stock of progress made to address protection needs, humanitarian access and strengthen compliance with IHL in Central Sahel countries.

Throughout 2021, the EU consolidated and strengthened its role as a convenor of coordinated and principled humanitarian action in the wider international donor community. The EU continued to facilitate the Humanitarian Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) jointly with Sweden, promoting a united stance among humanitarian actors on access and resource issues in the **Yemen** crisis.

More broadly, strong support for the central role of the **United Nations** in humanitarian response remained a cornerstone of the EU's broader strategic commitment to an effective United Nations and rules-based multilateralism. On behalf of the EU and its Member States, the EU continued in 2021 to mainstream agreed priorities in the resolution of the Humanitarian Affairs Segment of the UN Economic and Social Council and relevant UN General Assembly resolutions, reaffirming the primacy of humanitarian principles and respect for IHL. The EU prepared and coordinated statements on behalf of the EU as a donor or on behalf of the EU and its Member States in the governing bodies of the main strategic humanitarian UN partners, for instance in the WFP Executive Board, UNHCR Standing Committee and Executive Committee and UNICEF Executive Board.

As announced in the Communication and welcomed in the subsequent Council Conclusions[32], on 21-23 March 2022 the EU will organise the first **European Humanitarian Forum,** together with the French Presidency of the Council of the EU, after a consultative process in the autumn of 2021 with humanitarian partners and other stakeholders. The EHF will provide a new and innovative platform for strategic, high-level and open debate between EU political

[30] International Donors' Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants 2021 - YouTube
[31] Afghanistan Flash Appeal 2021 | Financial Tracking Service (unocha.org). https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/1057/summary
[32] Council Conclusions on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the EU's humanitarian action: new challenges, same principles, 8966/21, 20 May 2021, https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8966-2021-INIT/en/pdf

decision-makers and the wider international humanitarian community on the most pressing humanitarian challenges.

Lastly, while implementing the Communication, the European Commission has sought to systematically increase EU visibility of key actions and priority areas of the Communication, creating opportunities to raise awareness and acceptance among EU audiences. In particular, the Commission has promoted the role of the European Union as a leading humanitarian donor and in crisis response, addressing the increasing humanitarian needs through media and press activities, awareness-raising campaigns, social media and audio-visual promotion. Furthermore, the Commission has increased the EU visibility efforts in partnership with EU-funded humanitarian partner organisations.

Visibility and communication actions are equally supporting and reinforcing the Commission's advocacy activities, including raising awareness about and promoting humanitarian principles and International Humanitarian Law, highlighting the impact of climate change, as well as stressing the need to bridge the funding gap in response to the increasing needs. The first European Humanitarian Forum also provides opportunities for increasing EU visibility in this sense, also with a view to promoting the European Humanitarian Response Capacity and other innovative ways of delivering humanitarian aid.

Conclusion

One year after the adoption of the Communication, key actions across all the priority areas of the Communication have progressed. In some areas, the Commission has already delivered on specific commitments set out in the Communication or presented a clear roadmap and timeframe for delivery (such as on the European Humanitarian Response Capacity; or the organisation of the first EHF); in others, it is engaged in a longer-term strategic effort with Member States and key partners (such as on the promotion of IHL compliance, or work on expanding the donor base). Close coordination with EU Member States and the EU's humanitarian partners, as well as the support of the European Parliament, will continue to be essential for progress on many of the key priorities, and the Commission will continue to take work on the main priorities forward in this spirit.

Annex I: Overview of Humanitarian Assistance funding of EU Member States and the European Commission

Humanitarian Assistance funding from 2016 to 2021 from EU Member States and the European Commission

2021 funding figures might evolve pending additional reporting by donors on UN OCHA FTS in the course of 2022

Table 1

Source: OCHA FTS (18/02/2022)

Humanitarian Aid Contributions and % share by EU Member States and European Commission, 2016-2021 (USD)

Donor	Year											
	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
Germany	3,313,336,516.00	39%	3,091,131,991	39%	3,096,744,395	41%	2,875,413,458	40%	3,810,275,544	40%	2,655,866,347	31%
Sweden	639,318,387.00	7%	630,466,138	8%	657,130,845	9%	725,923,816	10%	892,440,432	9%	1,125,749,101	13%
Belgium	189,371,071.00	2%	278,152,628	3%	216,970,486	3%	173,941,078	2%	196,783,901	2%	412,128,975	5%
Denmark	457,442,664.00	5%	421,207,244	5%	384,390,774	5%	478,971,755	7%	321,031,328	3%	397,108,744	5%
Netherlands	348,747,939.00	4%	352,829,241	4%	231,870,354	3%	430,254,591	6%	454,615,069	5%	381,788,211	4%
France	190,306,678.00	2%	239,805,865	3%	147,722,047	2%	169,153,168	2%	210,011,166	2%	287,675,746	3%
Italy	139,165,884.00	2%	177,877,597	2%	175,724,268	2%	189,566,080	3%	203,722,773	2%	175,399,533	2%
Ireland	121,148,902.00	1%	149,716,158	2%	137,836,557	2%	128,795,828	2%	161,602,582	2%	144,003,635	2%
Finland	118,635,907.00	1%	98,333,843	1%	88,413,052	1%	98,769,166	1%	131,960,227	1%	88,287,534	1%
Austria	45,076,431.00	1%	40,143,858	1%	25,648,973	0%	33,821,663	0%	45,635,335	0%	65,556,024	1%
Spain	33,140,269.00	0%	63,890,912	1%	45,395,673	1%	38,163,223	1%	58,879,682	1%	49,603,459	1%
Luxembourg	67,429,026.00	1%	40,707,237	1%	25,967,878	0%	32,876,243	0%	47,714,786	0%	28,856,830	0%
Czechia	6,742,571.00	0%	6,796,610	0%	1,583,447	0%	8,590,385	0%	2,945,394	0%	2,828,781	0%
Poland	11,217,845.00	0%	21,317,899	0%	7,421,229	0%	3,391,679	0%	5,721,204	0%	2,289,480	0%
Estonia	4,648,888.00	0%	4,182,573	0%	3,950,686	0%	3,472,075	0%	4,774,988	0%	1,284,126	0%
Portugal	218,963.00	0%	280,432	0%	176,984	0%	8,395,639	0%	3,401,988	0%	607,872	0%
Romania	514,953.00	0%	113,250	0%	118,410	0%	65,000	0%	418,159	0%	257,187	0%
Greece	1,327,249.00	0%	360,577	0%	0	0%	0	0%	70,798	0%	253,940	0%
Lithuania	1,346,260.00	0%	346,053	0%	357,884	0%	353,172	0%	720,746	0%	238,298	0%
Slovenia	534,989.00	0%	622,683	0%	689,924	0%	194,657	0%	907,909	0%	232,594	0%
Malta	917,351.00	0%	636,221	0%	251,826	0%	272,105	0%	835,853	0%	190,577	0%
Cyprus	24,526.00	0%	56,638	0%	48,414	0%	131,850	0%	227,510	0%	121,590	0%
Croatia	100,000.00	0%	0	0%	0	0%	50,000	0%	829,960	0%	100,000	0%
Bulgaria	783,955.00	0%	468,323	0%	645,180	0%	406,194	0%	389,354	0%	89,606	0%
Latvia	54,825.00	0%	0	0%	51,136	0%	11,001	0%	108,578	0%	11,261	0%
Slovakia	1,782,401.00	0%	913,236	0%	1,293,460	0%	303,822	0%	521,680	0%	7,683	0%
Hungary	4,451,776.00	0%	1,169,167	0%	0	0%	0	0%	100,000	0%	0	0%
European Commission	2,848,000,307.00	33%	2,332,369,750	29%	2,382,822,217	31%	1,834,855,306	25%	3,062,719,366	32%	2,851,732,282	33%
TOTAL	8,545,786,533		7,953,896,124		7,633,226,099		7,236,142,954		9,619,366,312		8,672,269,416	

Humanitarian Asssistance funding for 2021 from the top 20 donors globally

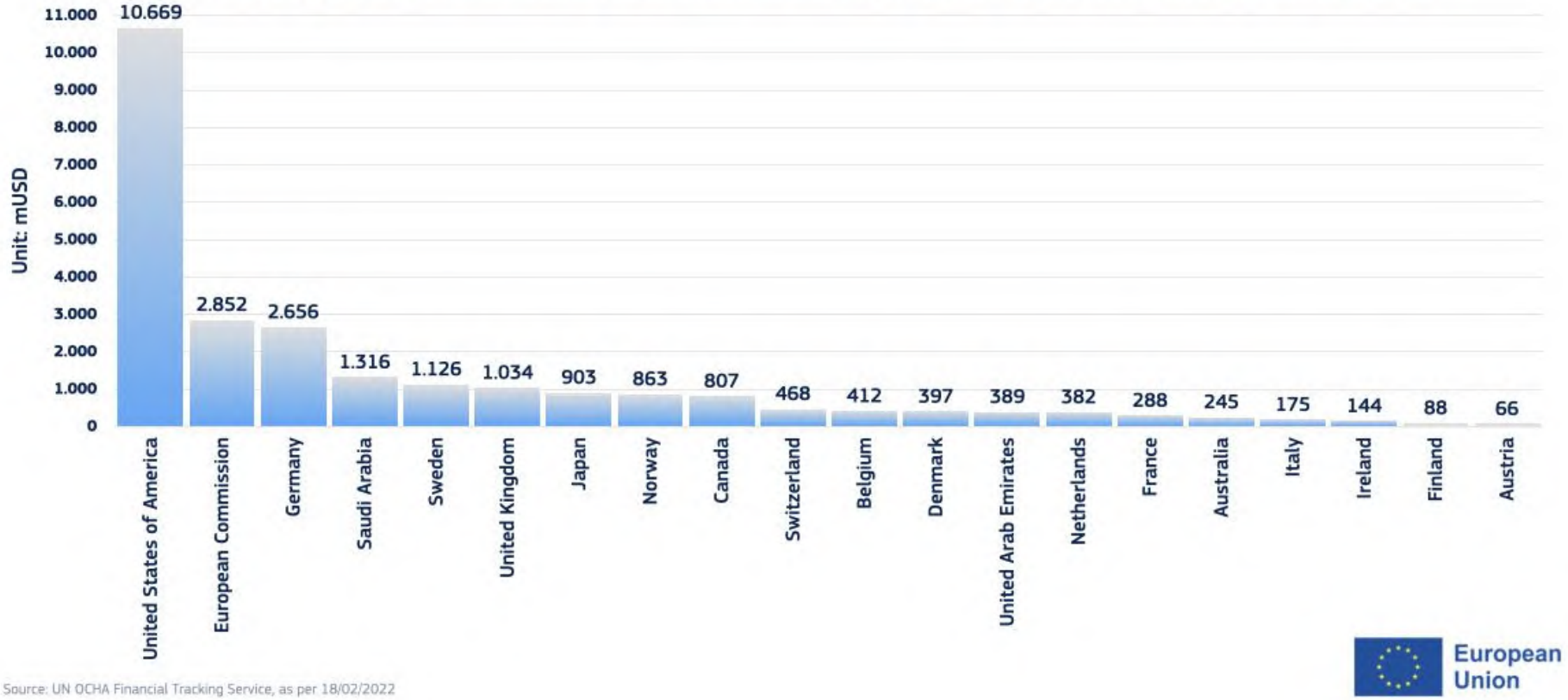
2021 funding figures might evolve pending additional reporting by donors on UN OCHA FTS in the course of 2022

Table 2		
Source: OCHA FTS (18/02/2022)		
Humanitarian Aid Contributions and % share by top 20 donors globally (USD)		
Donor	**Top global humanitarian donors in current USD (contributions 2021) and global share (%)**	
United States of America	$10,668,537,762	**41.6%**
European Commission	$2,851,732,282	**11.1%**
Germany	$2,655,866,347	**10.4%**
Saudi Arabia	$1,316,473,758	**5.1%**
Sweden	$1,125,749,101	**4.4%**
United Kingdom	$1,033,902,934	**4.0%**
Japan	$903,400,150	**3.5%**
Norway	$862,632,170	**3.4%**
Canada	$806,689,704	**3.1%**
Switzerland	$467,976,385	**1.8%**
Belgium	$412,128,975	**1.6%**
Denmark	$397,108,744	**1.5%**
United Arab Emirates	$388,794,366	**1.5%**
Netherlands	$381,788,211	**1.5%**
France	$287,675,746	**1.1%**
Australia	$245,316,046	**1.0%**
Italy	$175,399,533	**0.7%**
Ireland	$144,003,635	**0.6%**
Finland	$88,287,534	**0.3%**
Austria	$65,556,024	**0.3%**
Others		**1.4%**

Source: UN OCHA FTS (HA contributions, as per 20/01/2022[1])

[1] https://fts.unocha.org/donors/overview

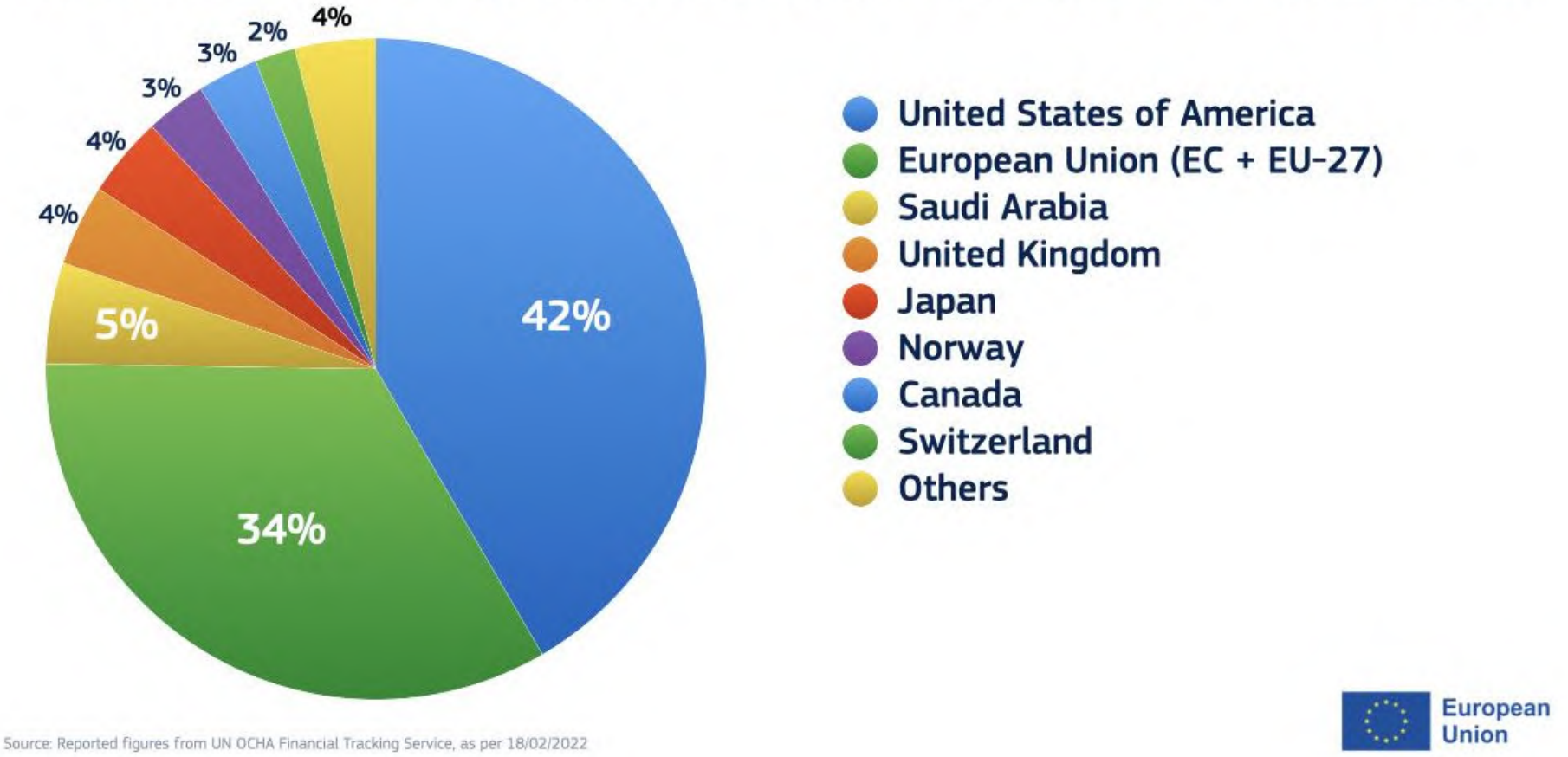
Top global donors humanitarian aid (contributions 2021)



Source: UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service, as per 18/02/2022

European Union

Top donors' share of global humanitarian funding (2021 contributions)



Source: Reported figures from UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service, as per 18/02/2022

European Union

Annex II : Localisation

In its **Communication on the EU's humanitarian action: new challenges, same principles**[1], the Commission committed itself to providing stronger support to local responders to humanitarian emergencies, in line with the **Grand Bargain**[2].

The Communication inter alia highlights the need to encourage consortia based on equal partnerships, shared responsibilities, and funding between international and local responders. To this end, one of the key actions in the Communication is to '**develop guidance on the promotion of equal partnerships with local responders**'. Another key action in the Communication is to '**increase EU support to local responders, including by expanded use of country-based pooled funds and other funding mechanisms that prioritise local actors**.'

Since the adoption of the Communication, the Commission has gathered best practices from the field perspective, to help better identify areas where the Commission could contribute to effective localisation. Although this exercise showed that the Commission support for several important initiatives that had localisation as an objective had impact, it also showed that there is a strong case for a more systematic approach. This will feed into a high-level panel discussion at the 2022 European Humanitarian Forum. A process to consult partners, stakeholders and local responders will subsequently be launched, aimed at capturing the issues which the guidance could address. These include support to local partners' institutional capacities, recognition of local actors' qualifications, exploring different financial models, stronger participation and leadership in humanitarian coordination mechanisms, involvement of local partners in the humanitarian response cycle, safety and security, as well as exploring the role of umbrella organisations in promoting localisation.

The Commission has also continued to contribute to work on localisation within the **Grand Bargain**, and continued to provide technical expertise to the workstream with inputs to the four main areas of work that will result in guiding principles for all stakeholders. These are: a) an effective and inclusive process at the country level to operationalise localisation commitments; b) improving funding possibilities for local actors; c) improvement of partnership through intermediary relationships; and d) strengthening advocacy, collaboration and synergies on localisation. The Commission is further participating in the Grand Bargain caucus related to the role of intermediaries in support of locally led action.

As the Communication noted, **Country-Based Pooled Funds** (CBPFs) are an important way of supporting local responders in line with the Grand Bargain, since CBPFs provide a substantial proportion of their funding directly to national non-governmental organisations (NGOs), in turn also promoting the active involvement of national NGOs in humanitarian coordination at national level. The importance of humanitarian pooled funding has been particularly highlighted in the COVID-19 pandemic response. The Communication thus

1 COM (2021) 110 final.

2 Localisation will be one of the two enabling priorities under Grand Bargain 2.0, alongside quality funding.

specifically underlined the Commission's commitment to support selected CBPFs as an important way of strengthening local responders.

Since 2019, the Commission has been supporting selected CBPFs, namely the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) with EUR 3 million and the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF) with EUR 1 million. The renewal of the contributions was based on the positive results of the lessons learnt exercise, which took place in 2021. The conclusions of this exercise proved that both funds were useful tools in pursuing the Commission's strategy in both countries, as well as fulfilling relevant Grand Bargain commitments, such as support to localisation. The Commission will continue contributing to CBPFs in line with its priorities and interests, including localisation, cost effectiveness, enhanced donor coordination, accountability, visibility, flexibility and adaptability of the response.

Annex III : European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC)

Concept

With the impact of climate change, funding unpredictability due to geopolitical shifts, increasing danger for humanitarian workers and volatile access to beneficiaries, humanitarian aid is facing an unprecedented set of challenges, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Humanitarian needs are at an all-time high and the gap between humanitarian needs and the resources available globally is increasing.

For this reason, the Communication on the *EU's humanitarian action: new challenges, same principles*[1] proposes the development of a European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC). While the EU's humanitarian aid will continue to be delivered by the EU's humanitarian aid partners, the Communication notes that "*there may be situations in which there is a clear added-value for the EU to intervene directly (...) when the habitual delivery mechanisms or available capacities from humanitarian organisations or national authorities may be ineffective or lacking"*. The EHRC will enable the Commission to fill critical gaps in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and show European solidarity, drawing on the experience and the capacities of both the humanitarian and the civil protection strands of the Commission's work in crisis response. This does not imply a change in the basic approach of the Commission, which remains rooted in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, but rather an expansion of the tools through which support is offered, following the same humanitarian principles and building on existing coordination systems in place (i.e. the central role of the United Nations, and notably OCHA; as well as the clear mandates of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the Emergency Response Coordination Centre).

The two main objectives of the EHRC are:

1. To enable more rapid, targeted and direct EU interventions triggered and steered by the Commission (DG ECHO) to improve the humanitarian response and fill gaps in the aftermath of a natural or human-induced disaster, but also in situations of protracted crises with new developments.

2. To show stronger EU leadership in steering the delivery of humanitarian assistance, triggering Team Europe Initiatives to support the EU's overall role as global actor and its diplomatic leverage in the context of crises.

To achieve these objectives, the EHRC will address weaknesses and barriers in particular within the area of humanitarian logistics and supply chain. This is closely linked with the Humanitarian Logistics Policy currently being developed by the Commission. The EHRC will include a number of separate tools that can be implemented in phases following a coherent intervention rationale and can be modulated according to the intervention scenario.[2] Each strand can be activated independently or deployed as part of a package. Speed and flexibility will be essential in the use of the EHRC.

[1] COM(2021) 110 final, https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/hacommunication2021.pdf
[2] See below the flowchart that represents the overall rationale.

The EHRC will be managed by the Emergency Response Coordination Centre in DG ECHO, thus ensuring close coordination and complementarity with the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and emergency tools from other humanitarian actors.

Phase I

The first three pillars of the EHRC to be launched will be: **prepositioned stockpiles, a reinforced EU Humanitarian Air Bridge (HAB)**, and **Rapid Response Teams.** Work is ongoing to have these components operational in the first half of 2022.

Pre-positioning free-of-charge stocks of emergency kits

*The EHRC stockpiling objective is to provide a rapidly deployable complement of aid that is **able to act as a safety net to fill response gaps** when needed.*

Based on the Commission´s experience, emergency kits (shelter, wash and hygiene kits) are often either not available in sufficient quantity and/or quality for rapid delivery during a major new-onset emergency or their deployment takes time while partners conduct needs assessments and confirm funding.

The EHRC could ensure the swift availability, deployment and distribution of such pre-positioned stocks directly to humanitarian partners. The stock will not cover structural gaps, but step in during large and/or sudden crises when the national and international mechanisms are not able to respond properly.

The Commission would offer such EHRC emergency items for free to its humanitarian partners, with a particular emphasis on the first hours of a disaster/crisis or even before a disaster strikes. These stocks would be sent rapidly to the affected area via a "no regrets approach". The proposal is to establish some regional and sub-regional stockpiles, as a regional safety net to existing national stocks.

The setting-up and maintenance of these emergency stockpiles should preferably be managed by experienced implementing partners selected per applicable EU rules and procedures and embedded in a network of warehouses around the world. The partner will be in charge of the entire procurement process while the Commission retains the decision-making initiative regarding the constitution, composition and location of the stocks, and on the release of the items.

In line with the 'Team Europe' objective of the EHRC, the Commission will seek the cooperation of Member States to establish joint stockpiles in strategic warehouses around the globe (e.g. Brindisi). This will result in a more visible and more coordinated use of the humanitarian capacity.

The reinforced EU Humanitarian Air Bridge (HAB)

*The EU Humanitarian Air Bridge (EU HAB) aims to **support the delivery of humanitarian aid** to third countries, filling temporary logistical gaps by providing humanitarian partner organisations with safe and reliable transport solutions.*

The HAB was originally designed to support the delivery of humanitarian supplies and to facilitate the movement of humanitarian staff to third countries in the wake of sudden and critical supply and access restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The reinforced EU HAB aims to move beyond the current pandemic crisis with the delivery of cargo to contribute in other types of humanitarian crises, as well as to raise the profile of a crisis, drawing attention to operational constraints faced by humanitarian actors on the ground and articulating EU diplomatic support in humanitarian access negotiations with local and national authorities.

The EU HAB is an initiative jointly implemented by the EU and its Member States at the service of the entire humanitarian community and populations affected by crises.

EHRC Rapid Response Teams (RRT)

The overall objective of the Rapid Response Teams will be to ***boost the Commission's humanitarian response and act as a lynchpin in the EHRC mobilisation, facilitating its swift roll-out on the ground****.*

In order to support the use of EHRC tools, we will draw on **existing internal resources** of the Commission's humanitarian field staff for the composition of these Rapid Response Teams – notably Rapid Response Coordinators, Surge Response experts, and Logistics experts, who are available very quickly and can jump-start the overall EU/Commission response. Their presence from the outset of a disaster will enable a smoother and more coherent response as well as better coordination between the Commission's response tools.

In addition to their established tasks, these RRTs will ensure the safe arrival and dispatching to partners of EHRC assistance (e.g. HAB, stockpiles), and integrate established humanitarian coordination structures with a specific focus on logistics. Should the UCPM be activated, the role of these RRTs can be widened to include advising an EU Civil Protection Team (EUCPT) on humanitarian needs, gaps and response options. They could also potentially support the team's arrival. The logistical expertise of the RRT may also prove effective to support, when necessary, the Reception and Departure Centre (RDC), if present. The Commission's humanitarian staff will be available to participate in joint assessments; this will allow early transmission of information to ECHO HQ, who can use this to inform Member State assistance sent through the UCPM, supporting MS and Commission humanitarian response efforts. They may also support the EUCPT in its exit strategy, monitoring the wrapping-up of its operations or their appropriate handover once the Civil Protection Team leaves the affected country.

The Commission will develop procedures for the predictable deployment of RRTs in sudden-onset crises, both natural disasters and human-made crises, as well as protracted or forgotten crises in case of a sudden peak in needs or in order to raise the profile of a crisis. As is currently the case with the Commission's humanitarian field experts, RRTs have worldwide coverage, excluding operations within the EU.

Phase II

Additional tools will be developed in a second phase, in close consultation with the humanitarian community and Member States, following dedicated feasibility assessments. Possible EHRC strands may include the provision of additional technical expertise and common services (e.g. last-mile delivery), strengthened coordination on the ground to deliver and distribute assistance, as well as the provision of health expertise and capacities.

Working modalities

Direct implementation will be central to the EHRC and should be understood as the ability for the Commission to mobilise EHRC components directly, under the coordination offered by the Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) and a set of implementation modalities (i.e. direct operational involvement, mobilisation via implementing partners, agreements with MS and /or use of private service providers).

At the same time, the EHRC will allow the Commission to act applying a Team Europe approach. The EHRC provides an opportunity for MS to join forces and provide tangible joint services such as the creation of joint stockpiles, the activation of joint EU HABs, etc. Moreover, the EHRC's advocacy objectives would be enhanced by joint alignment on specific and tangible advocacy positions.

The EHRC legal basis is the Humanitarian Aid Regulation. Therefore, the EHRC would primarily use resources coming from the Humanitarian Aid budget line of the EU Budget. The EHRC achievements will complement the other humanitarian funding priorities, either geographically or thematically, thus resulting in a net increase of Commission's support in a given context.

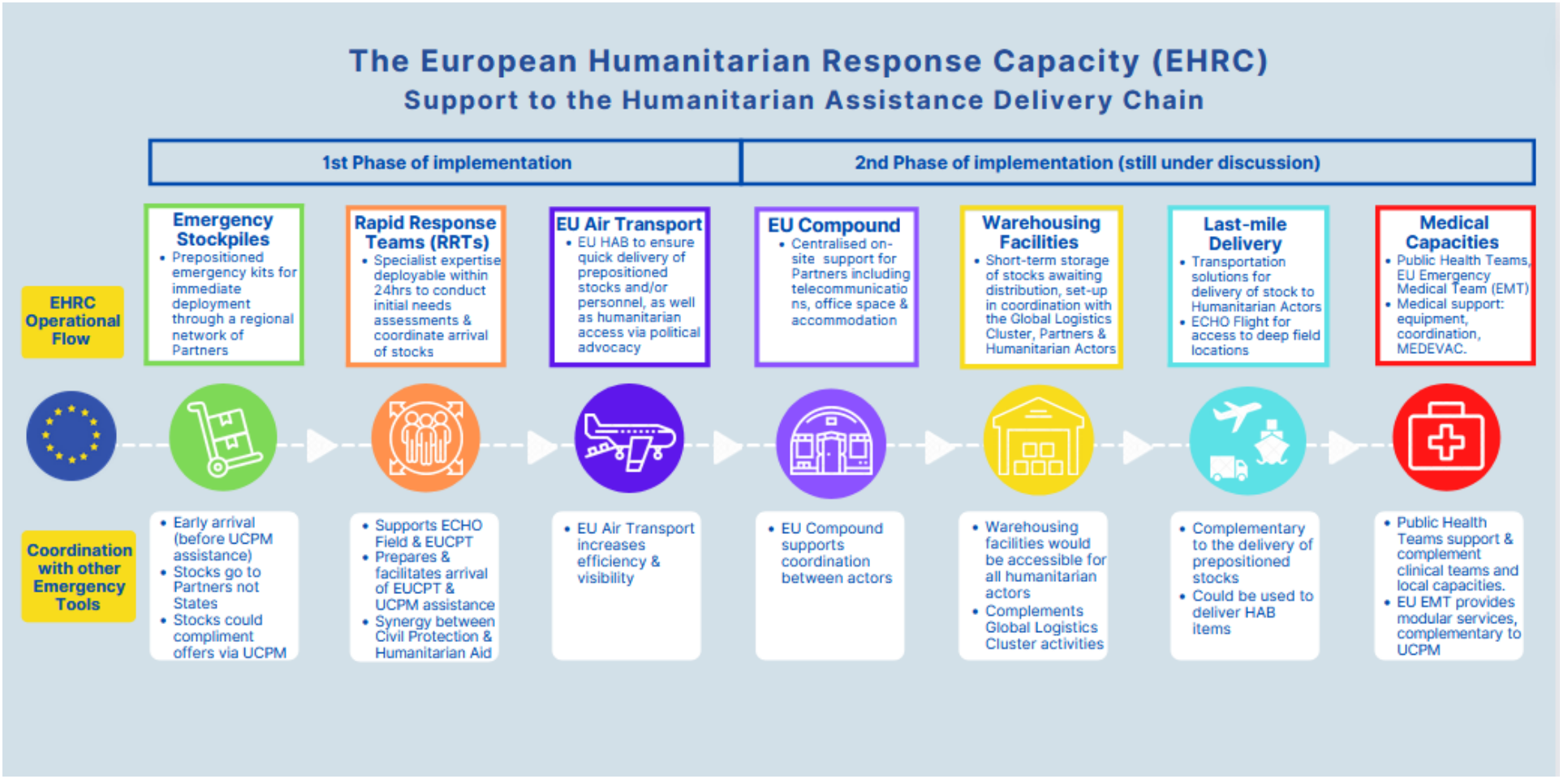
The EHRC will mainly systematise the use of existing capabilities such as, for example, the Commission's network of humanitarian experts (currently located in more than forty countries affected by humanitarian crises), or also the humanitarian air bridge system launched in 2020 as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission intends to give greater value and visibility to these capacities, including through better coordination with other already existing instruments, such as the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) or actions under the Civil Protection Mechanism, and always in line with the humanitarian principles.

In this sense, the EHRC is not a completely new instrument as it builds on existing capabilities and mechanisms. The EHRC aims to be integrated into the broader landscape of the Commission's humanitarian response tools. Under the coordination umbrella of the ERCC, the Commission will decide on the best response modality or a mix of responses between the provision of emergency humanitarian funding, requests for in-kind assistance from Member States under the UCPM and/or the use of the new resources/capacities that will be made available under the EHRC. Far from creating a parallel system, the EHRC will be embedded in the current decision-making process as a tool to jump-start a response.

Summary

The EHRC is proposed as an additional tool available to the Commission for responding to humanitarian needs. The humanitarian space is mature and contains many well-funded and specialised actors, each with their own initiatives and niche capabilities. Areas in the field of emergency response completely uncovered by response means are limited, therefore the proposed EHRC tools have been tailored to areas that would benefit from a reinforcement of working modalities to complement actions already taken (as a safety net), bringing added value to the existing response capacities. It is important to avoid duplication of already existing instruments as well as possible competition between different humanitarian actors. To this end, the Commission will ensure thorough coordination with Member States (in a full Team Europe approach), as well as with the humanitarian community and existing coordination structures in place (notably via the United Nations, in particular OCHA, as well as the Global Logistic Cluster).

The emergency management capacity of the Commission will be improved thanks to the EHRC. The central role played by the Emergency Response Coordination Centre will ensure that the Commission and the Union at large have a more extensive range of response capacities. The EHRC could thus fill a gap between the UCPM and the humanitarian donor role of the Commission, with the provision of selected, complementary and rapidly deployable humanitarian assistance.


The European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC)
Support to the Humanitarian Assistance Delivery Chain
1st Phase of implementation
2nd Phase of implementation (still under discussion)
EHRC Operational Flow
Emergency Stockpiles
• Prepositioned emergency kits for immediate deployment through a regional network of Partners
Rapid Response Teams (RRTs)
• Specialist expertise deployable within 24hrs to conduct initial needs assessments & coordinate arrival of stocks
EU Air Transport
• EU HAB to ensure quick delivery of prepositioned stocks and/or personnel, as well as humanitarian access via political advocacy
EU Compound
• Centralised on-site support for Partners including telecommunications, office space & accommodation
Warehousing Facilities
• Short-term storage of stocks awaiting distribution, set-up in coordination with the Global Logistics Cluster, Partners & Humanitarian Actors
Last-mile Delivery
• Transportation solutions for delivery of stock to Humanitarian Actors
• ECHO Flight for access to deep field locations
Medical Capacities
• Public Health Teams, EU Emergency Medical Team (EMT)
• Medical support: equipment, coordination, MEDEVAC.
Coordination with other Emergency Tools
• Early arrival (before UCPM assistance)
• Stocks go to Partners not States
• Stocks could compliment offers via UCPM
• Supports ECHO Field & EUCPT
• Prepares & facilitates arrival of EUCPT & UCPM assistance
• Synergy between Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid
• EU Air Transport increases efficiency & visibility
• EU Compound supports coordination between actors
• Warehousing facilities would be accessible for all humanitarian actors
• Complements Global Logistics Cluster activities
• Complementary to the delivery of prepositioned stocks
• Could be used to deliver HAB items
• Public Health Teams support & complement clinical teams and local capacities.
• EU EMT provides modular services, complementary to UCPM

Annex IV : Good practices in the implementation of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus

This overview of good practices consists of a compilation of examples where the **humanitarian-development-peace nexus** has been successfully pursued at field level. The examples notably showcase the frameworks for cooperation between different actors that have been established in particular contexts, ranging from common coordination structures to joint analytical work, complementary programming, contributions to broader collective outcomes at country level, or the establishment of nexus-specific financing mechanisms. In some cases, the nexus has been also embedded in Team Europe Initiatives.

The new financial framework has provided opportunities to further strengthen the articulation between the programming of the external EU instruments, building, wherever possible, on the conflict analysis screening exercise provided for under the NDICI-Global Europe.

The overview includes examples from the six EU pilot countries for nexus implementation identified in 2017 (Chad, Iraq, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sudan and Uganda) as well as certain non-pilot countries where the nexus is central to achieving effective and sustainable outcomes in situations of fragility.

Chad

Chad is a good example of how to improve coordination with donors beyond the EU, following the OECD/DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus.

Effective common coordination structures to institutionalise collaboration

At the end of 2020, the EU Delegation in Chad and the DG ECHO office agreed on the establishment of a **Nexus Task Force**[1] bringing together the main donors and development banks, with the aim of further institutionalising an already strong collaboration between the local DG ECHO office and the EU Delegation, whilst at the same time enlarging the coordination framework to EU Member States, other like-minded donors and the World Bank. The objective of the Task Force is to guide and supervise the operationalisation of the nexus, with a view to strengthening coordination and partnerships, and achieve a transformational impact on the ground for the benefit of the population. It covers the multiplicity of crises affecting the country, such as the protracted forced displacement crisis, the broader Sahel food and nutrition crisis, and the acute emergency in the Lake Chad Basin.

Contribution to broader collective outcomes

Chad is also the first pilot country for the EU-funded **Global network against food crises (GNAFC)**. Its objective is to create a platform whereby all stakeholders (donors, the government, development and humanitarian agencies, civil society etc.) can align their strategic food security and nutrition decisions, thus allowing for a coordinated, efficient and effective response to food crises. Actions focusing on the immediate response to food security needs (through social safety nets and food distribution) and on the local production of enriched flour will be implemented in two pilot provinces (Kanem and Bar-el-Gazel) following the action plan drafted by the GNAFC. DG ECHO and DG INTPA have agreed to focus on the same regions for potential future joint interventions, which are to be taken forward under the Nexus Task Force. In 2022, a project on Food Systems Resilience funded

[1] EU Delegation (lead), ; DG ECHO, France / AFD; Germany / GIZ; Swiss Cooperation / SDC (co-lead); Spanish Cooperation; Germany/BMZ; French Cooperation; Dutch Cooperation; USAID; World Bank; UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office.

by NDICI-GE and implemented by FAO and WFP will provide another very relevant example of the nexus approach related with food security and nutrition.

Joint analysis

The Structural Country Assessment carried out with the EU Delegation and Member States in January 2019 involved the EEAS, DG INTPA and DG ECHO at HQ and Delegation/field office level, contributing to a joint understanding of structural risk factors and key areas of engagement. The monitoring report in summer 2020 confirmed the relevance and validity of the joint analysis in informing the Delegation's political and programming engagement and will be the basis for the conflict analysis screening scheduled for 2022.

Iraq

Iraq is a clear example of how strengthened coordination can have long-term impact on key challenges facing the country, including education, durable solutions to displacement, and reestablishment of a peaceful society

Joined-up planning and programming with a focus on internal displacement

In the context of NDICI-Global Europe programming, consultations have been conducted between EU humanitarian, development and peace actors, especially in relation to the anticipated focus on social protection, education and urban development, with a strong displacement angle, to ensure alignment of humanitarian and development needs assessments and interventions.

For example, the nexus approach is an integral part of the Annual Action Programme 2021 on "Support to durable solutions for Iraq's displaced populations: integration into the national labour market and national systems for education and social protection", which aims holistically, sustainably and in line with the nexus to support integration through reformed national systems, especially those relevant to basic service delivery, job creation and governance.

Regular coordination on durable solutions

DG ECHO, DG INTPA, DG NEAR and the EEAS consult regularly to ensure joint positions and messaging towards the Government of Iraq, the UN and other international partners (such as for forced displacement and IDP camp closures), as well as close coordination with EU Member States and likeminded donors.

Uganda

Uganda represents a very good example of how the EU nexus efforts can fit within a broader international process aiming at addressing refugees' and host population needs. The nexus in Uganda has also greatly helped to promote the inclusion of affected people into national systems.

Joint analysis

The Structural Country Assessment carried out with the Delegation and Member States in February 2020, involving the EEAS, DG INTPA and DG ECHO at HQ and Delegation/field office level, has contributed to a joint understanding of structural risk factors and key areas of

engagement. The monitoring report in summer 2021 confirmed the relevance and validity of the joint analysis in informing the Delegation's political and programming engagement.

Contribution to collective outcomes

EU efforts under the nexus are focused on increasing the effectiveness of the EU's contribution to the roll-out of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and on better addressing the situation of affected populations (both refugees and hosting communities) in selected sectors. The Government of Uganda, through relevant line ministries, is leading on the development of Sector Response Plans for Refugees and Host Communities, which are essential for ensuring sustainability of the model.

The CRRF has given renewed and more prominent visibility to host communities. An increasing number of programmes, both development and humanitarian, are focusing on needs and strengthened service delivery in districts overall. The CRRF has also facilitated a conversation around refugee mobility and refugees in urban areas.

Joint monitoring

Since early 2020, DGs ECHO and INTPA have joined forces to monitor DG ECHO and EU Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF)-funded projects focused on disaster preparedness, specifically implemented in the refugee-hosting districts located in the South-West region of Uganda. As a result, the identification of gaps, evolving needs on the ground and key elements to operationalise the Uganda component of the EUTF regional programme "CRRF DIRECT - displacement responses through regional cooperation and technical exchange" (EUR 2.9 million) were identified by building on and drawing lessons from previous and ongoing relevant interventions while ensuring their continuity and complementarity in the targeted refugee hosting districts.

Nexus response to COVID -19 pandemic

Since the beginning of the pandemic, efforts have been made in Uganda to readapt a number of interventions to support the COVID-19 response in refugee areas, as well as to identify specific areas of intervention through which the nexus could be implemented. This approach has been particularly successful in the case of the work done on disaster preparedness, notably with regard to epidemics.

Nigeria

Strengthened coordination and joined advocacy in shrinking "humanitarian/development space".

The security situation in Northeast Nigeria started to deteriorate at the end of 2017 and has worsened significantly since 2019, with an increase in the number and scale of violent attacks on the civilian population, including large-scale kidnappings (predominantly targeting students), as well as attacks against military convoys and the security forces in general. Vulnerabilities have deepened because of the escalation of attacks, constraints on humanitarian action, disrupted livelihoods and the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The shrinking of humanitarian space in North East Nigeria is largely due to deteriorating security, but also to restrictions imposed by the government and mistrust towards the work of humanitarian actors. Due to the current security trends in the North East,

it seems that there is scope for advancement of the nexus approach mainly in the states of Adamawa and Yobe, less so in Borno State.

Despite this challenging context, strong communication between the EU Delegation and DG ECHO and other donors has forged a common understanding and a way forward in nexus implementation. The following fora have been established for coordination and advocacy:

Coordination efforts:

- Inside the EU Delegation, the North-East Cluster Group was set up to facilitate information sharing between various sections in the Delegation and DG ECHO.
- Coordination groups, at ambassadorial level, have been set up for the North-East and North-West crises. They are supported by groups at technical level. The objective is to promote HDP nexus coordination, respect for human rights, IHL and humanitarian access, and improved awareness and visibility of the crises.

Advocacy efforts:

- Regular cooperation and dialogue with the Borno State Government and its partners through meetings in Abuja and Maiduguri, to discuss in particular the return policy promoted by the authorities in Borno State which in its current implementation is not considered in compliance with the international legal framework (Kampala Convention). These discussions also revolve around the deterioration of access and security following the attacks in Dikwa and Damasak (2021 – Borno State).
- Collaboration with NCFRMI (the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons) in order to address IDP-related issues and further strengthen the joint action on IDP governance.

Sudan

The HDP nexus in a context of disrupted political transition.

The nexus has been the modus operandi in Sudan before the 2019 political transition and in its aftermath, to ensure a well-coordinated support to the civilian-led transition while responding to the humanitarian needs of the population, especially in the periphery. Sudan has been a very good example for the nexus, especially through projects funded by the EU Trust Fund for Africa, notably for activities ranging from education/TVET, health and social protection services, agriculture, food security, nutrition, migration and Human Rights. These actions have been implemented in coordination with a wider set of partners through the Development Partners Group (DPG).

The nexus has been embedded as a key component of the Agri-food Value Chains Team Europe Initiative that has identified agri-food value chains as a key vector to food security and sustainable growth and jobs, and as a meaningful segment of the humanitarian-development nexus. Water and land are vital elements for promoting peace among central, regional and local parties and determining inclusive socio-economic development.

While development programmes are currently on hold since the military takeover in October 2021, the priorities identified in the 2017 EU Nexus Action Plan remain valid. In this framework, DG ECHO actions have continued, with a focus on health, nutrition, food

security, WASH and protection in conflict-affected areas, and are designed to ensure complementarity with development aid wherever possible. DG INTPA is working on the formulation of Special Measures for the direct benefit of populations, and will work through CSOs, Member States' agencies and the UN, without entailing any form of collaboration and engagement with State authorities/governmental structures.

A Conflict Analysis Screening is nearly finalised, pending the stabilisation of the current political situation. The joint analysis considered all relevant factors related to the political, security, development and humanitarian situation in Sudan, and their impact on the risk of violent conflict.

Myanmar

Myanmar is a good example of how EU development and humanitarian funding in a fragile or conflict-affected setting can be coordinated effectively to operationalise the nexus.

After the formalisation of a Nexus Plan of Action and Nexus Standard Operating Procedures between DG ECHO, DG INTPA and the EU Delegation to Myanmar, the nexus is being operationalised in Myanmar mainly through the EU Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Response Mechanism (NRM). The NRM is a funding mechanism which both DG INTPA and DG ECHO contribute to, with total funding currently at EUR 44 million. With special attention to women and the most vulnerable, the NRM aims at providing support to conflict-affected people, displaced populations, host communities and returnees by strengthening the HDP nexus in accordance with due diligence criteria to promote human rights, linking relief with rehabilitation and socio-economic recovery in conflict-affected areas and protracted situations of displacement and inter-communal violence.

The EU aims to achieve these results by working through a coordinated approach, where first of all humanitarian aid is provided to address immediate and lifesaving needs. Then, following on from the immediate intervention, the NRM engages in resilience actions to prepare communities for future shocks, strengthening local capacities. The final objective is to address structural rights challenges and mitigate the impacts of these challenges on communities, thereby protecting the basic rights of communities, including IDPs and refugees.

Following the military coup in February 2021, new entities for local governance alternative to military rule have emerged in the entire country. In the current context of active conflict, structural changes will be sought by stepping up peacebuilding efforts at the local level and by supporting initiatives for dialogue and trust building. The NRM will continue performing its role of enabler of locally-led initiatives and will support bottom-up peace-building efforts as well as accountability and protection work by its network of already 50 - and still growing - Myanmar Civil Society Organizations.

Joint Analysis

The Conflict Analysis Screening (CAS) on Myanmar was finalized late 2021 and has factored in the changing political and security environment after the military coup in February 2021.

Burkina Faso

Strengthening the resilience of populations and responding to long-lasting needs in a context of a protracted displacement crisis are primary objectives of nexus implementation in Burkina Faso. Particular attention is being paid to ensuring access to social services and self-reliance of the most vulnerable people in urban areas.

Complementary programming

Historically, the nexus has been implemented in Burkina Faso through projects aiming particularly at structural food and nutrition assistance and health care.

Ensuring complementarity of actions remained key also during the conception and implementation of the first year of NDICI- GE programing. While DG ECHO works on rapid response to basic emergency needs in hard-to-reach areas, DG INTPA has focused on strengthening the resilience of populations through better access to basic social services, development of sustainable social protection mechanisms, conflict prevention and management on the Kaya-Dori axis. A people-centered approach and protection of civilians has been promoted at all stages of the programing, especially in the EU support to the security reform sector through various means (e.g. budget support, projects, support to G5 Sahel etc.) as well as through the EU support to justice.

This approach is complemented by two TEIs: 1) Inclusion pour la stabilité and 2) Pacte vert pour les jeunes. The first focusses on promoting the stability of the country as well as the prevention and management of local conflicts by strengthening social cohesion and the resilience of the populations, in an integrated territorial approach. The second aims to promote sustainable economic growth by providing employment opportunities for new generations using the green potential of the land and the economic opportunities around secondary towns.

The peace dimension of the nexus

The EU continues to support the peace-building efforts that also feature strongly in the MIP, with a strong focus on the needs of displaced populations and host communities. The EU response will (i) support the government's efforts to improve social cohesion and the restoration of trust between the population and the state services; (ii) prevent and manage local conflicts, including land conflicts and the prevention of radicalisation and the promotion of inter-religious and inter-community dialogue; and (iii) fight against gender-based violence.

Mozambique

Mozambique is a good example of how to integrate all three elements of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, thanks to the mobilisation of resources through different financial instruments, reinforced by policy dialogue/strategic support.

The Integrated Approach

Mozambique is facing escalating violence in the resource-rich northern province of Cabo Delgado. In response to the government's request for assistance, the EU integrated approach is implemented by ensuring **complementarity between the different EU instruments** while respecting their respective mandates. The EEAS, DG INTPA, FPI and DG ECHO are fully involved in the EU integrated approach for Cabo Delgado since the start of the crisis. Examples of the integrated approach include the following: Under the security component, the Council adopted a decision in July 2021 setting up the EU military training mission in

Mozambique (EUTM Mozambique), the curriculum of which includes modules on the protection of civilians, and compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights law. Another example is the joint work on education, with a deliberate nexus between Education in Emergency support provided in Northern Mozambique by DG ECHO and the integration of education as a priority sector in the development programming under the 2021-2024 funding framework. Response by FPI focusing on Children Associated with Armed Conflicts (CAAC) has direct synergies with child protection and education in emergencies work.

Joint coordination mechanism

An inter-service working group has been set up to enhance the EU's support to Mozambique and to develop the triple nexus approach for Cabo Delgado, with participation of Commission services, the EU Delegation and EU Member States. The nexus approach translates into complementarity of interventions as well as advocacy, and strong links across different instruments in sectors such as education. It also helps all services to integrate conflict sensitivity in projects/programmes for Mozambique.

Common conflict analysis

In the framework of the EU's multi-annual indicative programme for 2021-2027, a conflict analysis was finalised early 2021. This first CAS report is very relevant for the potential of the exercise not only to ensure conflict-sensitive programming, but also to inform the planning for CFSP engagements, mediation, election security planning, and other concrete opportunities for conflict prevention. The analysis involved not only HQ and Delegation staff but also international partners based in Maputo.

Somalia

Durable solutions are at the heart of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in Somalia, particularly through collaboration on national social protection schemes.

Increasing stability in Somalia has resulted in a shift away from short-term humanitarian action towards a longer-term, state and resilience-building approach. In 2020, a joint effort by the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, the Federal Government of Somalia and the donor community led to the establishment of a task force and Steering Committee for the triple nexus.

Linking social safety nets to social protection schemes

The most relevant nexus-related work between DG ECHO and the EU Delegation in Somalia is through collaboration on social safety nets programmes. DG ECHO is essentially contributing to the expansion of the existing national social safety-net programme supported by development actors, by making it "shock responsive", that is, by adding additional support whenever a disaster hits (either by providing additional cash to existing beneficiaries or by expanding the list of beneficiaries). The aim of the shock responsive component is that those hard hit by conflicts or by natural disasters are able to meet their most pressing needs and have access to food, water, shelter or health and education services. Both the social safety net and its shock-responsive component are essential to address the needs resulting from structural and recurring food insecurity and malnutrition, as well as to address the short to long-term needs of vulnerable populations.

Joint programme and policy dialogue on durable solutions

The RE-INTEG Programme (enhancing Somalia's responsiveness to the management and reintegration of mixed migration flows) seeks to support sustainable re-integration of refugee returnees and IDPs in Somalia. The programme has brought together humanitarian and peace-building actors in implementing a comprehensive displacement and migration programme that has addressed both immediate, medium and long-term needs of migrants, returning refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities. RE-INTEG also features a component supporting government actors in developing policies and laws in the area of migration and displacement, further facilitating the advancement of durable solutions to displacement and stronger management of mixed-migration flows. These efforts have culminated in the regional Nairobi Plan of Action for Somali Refugees, the adoption of a number of policies and laws on migration and displacement in Somalia, and the ratification of the African Union's Kampala Convention (which outlines the responsibilities of the state towards IDPs) by Somalia.

Nexus in disaster preparedness

Further nexus opportunities exist in the field of disaster preparedness, notably in flood prevention: DG ECHO has been funding a disaster preparedness action to strengthen disaster early warning systems and response preparedness to reduce the impact of floods in the Shabelle river basin, and will provide further funding for a similar action in the Juba river basin in 2022. At the same time, river basin management is a key activity of the new BREACH (Boosting Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change) action funded by NDICI-GE. Close coordination between DG ECHO and the EU Delegation to Somalia to ensure nexus synergies is ongoing.

Central African Republic

The EU work in the country presents a good example of continuity between different EU financing tools and of how programmes financed under previous funding mechanisms (Bêkou trust fund) have been considered in the NDICI-GE programming.

Joined up financing mechanism

Initiated in 2014, the Bêkou Fund was the privileged tool in CAR to apply the principles of the HDP nexus, by effectively bridging the gap between humanitarian and development needs, and helping provide the peace dividends to communities in remote areas of the county. This was in particular the case with the RELSUDE project in the South-East of the country, which pursues an integrated approach on livelihoods, protection, peace and reconciliation, WASH and capacity building of local authorities. The Bêkou Fund has at times taken over projects previously financed by DG ECHO or other humanitarian partners, notably in the health sector. The deterioration in security at the end of 2020 and beginning of 2021, and the socio-economic impact of Covid-19 pandemic, have made the triple nexus approach even more necessary.

NDICI- GE programming

Close synergies among DG INTPA, DG ECHO, FPI and the EEAS have been ensured in the NDICI-Global Europe programming exercise, which confirmed the relevance of the HDP nexus approach initiated by the Bêkou Trust Fund. The priority area on peace and security offers opportunities for joint initiatives, including on the promotion of international humanitarian law. The priority area on governance and the social contract includes

interventions in health and education, creating avenues for a joined-up approach with DG ECHO on access to key services. Finally, interventions in the priority area of sustainable development and the green economy will strengthen food systems resilience, working on one hand on the food and nutrition status of the population and on the other hand on sectoral governance and value chains development.

Haiti

Haiti presents an example on how coordination can spread into new areas, enlarging the scope of the triple nexus implementation in the country.

Joint Action plan

Nexus cooperation in Haiti has been underway since 2015, when a first joint action plan was established. The action plan identified a number of areas for cooperation and division of labour, based on joint analytical work. These included resilience, nutrition and food security, as well as water and sanitation, and yielded successful nexus coordination with DG ECHO's response following Hurricane Matthew (2016) and subsequent DG INTPA follow-up.

The joint action plan was evaluated in 2020 and this evaluation provided a basis for the identification of sectors for nexus cooperation during the NDICI-GE programming exercise. Among others, food security remains a highly relevant area for further developing the nexus in Haiti. To this end, and following the immediate mobilisation of the EU emergency toolbox in response to the earthquake of 14 August 2021, DG INTPA mobilized EUR 10 million to support the agricultural relaunch in the south of the country, thus complementing emergency assistance to the winter agricultural season.

The 2021-2027 multi-annual indicative programme for Haiti, though financially reduced, offers the overarching framework to articulate the nexus between humanitarian and development assistance. The main priorities include promoting human development and productive and resilient territories through interventions based on structural sector approaches, which will reinforce broader sustainable development, including disaster risk reduction.

The Philippines

The country provides an example of a solid consultative mechanism at the field level, with strong joint analytical work and upstream consultation on all programmes and actions being designed for the conflict-affected region of Mindanao.

Coordination on the rapid response mechanism as well as other programmes and actions

In the conflict-affected region of Mindanao, cooperation between DG ECHO, DG INTPA and the EU Delegation has resulted in the development of the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). This includes an insertion of this mechanism under the development programmes and support/advocacy for the absorption of this mechanism by local and national authorities.

The recent approval of the DG INTPA programmes for Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) is an opportunity to gain from the capacity building that DG ECHO-initiated, targeting the Disaster Preparedness Plan and Emergency Response Mechanism of BARMM.

DG ECHO and the EU Delegation hold regular consultations in the field, to explore complementarities for possible coordination. DG ECHO, DG INTPA and the EEAS have agreed to adopt joint analytical work, as well as cross-appraisal of and recommendation on each other's programmes and actions. The joint discussions with humanitarian, development and peace partners on the state of play in Mindanao help in providing a global analysis of the humanitarian, peace and development interests for BARMM.

Yemen

Yemen presents a good example of how joint analytical work, including on economic drivers of the crisis and on drivers of food security, can contribute to implementing the humanitarian, development and peace nexus.

Strategic coordination in the absence of formal programming process

While no formal MIP was drafted for Yemen in the current fluid situation, a Guidance Document has been developed by the EEAS, DG ECHO and FPI. This document guides a coherent and joined approach for medium-term EU development cooperation with Yemen and has paved the way for the optimisation of nexus opportunities under the annual Special Measures as of 2021.

In parallel, DG ECHO, DG INTPA and the EU Delegation have made progress in defining an integrated analytical and coordination framework to address more effectively the economic drivers of the Yemen crisis. On one side, a humanitarian advocacy process led by DG ECHO and Sweden has identified the urgency to address the economic drivers of the crisis, in coordination with political and development actors, and the EU Delegation has set up an **Economic Working Group** to provide strategic guidance for all international donors involved in supporting the Yemeni economy. This Economic Working Group offers an ideal forum to better analyse the drivers of both humanitarian and development crises and to identify joint actions.

A conflict analysis screening, aimed at ensuring the conflict sensitivity of EU programming, and identifying opportunities for conflict prevention, is scheduled to start later in 2022. The analysis will involve a broad range of EU staff at HQ and the Delegation, including EEAS, DG INTPA and DG ECHO.

In addition, EU services have enhanced coordination with the World Bank in Yemen around shared analysis, identification of sectorial areas of collaboration (i.e. food security and social protection) and economic development/economic drivers of the crisis (i.e. ongoing discussions on salaries/incentives).

Jordan

A good example of how humanitarian response links up and transitions to more sustainable approaches in a protracted refugee crisis.

Enhanced coordination between EU humanitarian, development and political services

In Jordan, a structured Joint Humanitarian-Development Framework (JHDF) started in 2015, focusing first on the dual Humanitarian-Development technical strategic dialogue via a pilot

project. This evolved to the triple nexus (humanitarian-development-peace), including the joint inter-service work on conflict analysis screening and EEAS support to political reforms. Since 2020, an active involvement of Member States has been envisaged in preparation of the strategic planning of the NDICI-GE. A bi-yearly institutional workshop involves EU staff at country, regional and headquarters levels representing DG ECHO, DG NEAR, EEAS and FPI. This workshop is organized around the work of technical task forces in key sectoral areas for the EU at country level, including Education, Health, Water/Wash, Social Protection/Livelihoods and Protection/Rule of Law. This inter-service technical consultation results in a strategic and programming dialogue identifying gaps, complementarities, and proposals for the way forward for EU actions and advocacy messages.

Transition of the Multi-Purpose cash assistance programme to MADAD Trust Fund

In order to ensure a more sustainable and meaningful contribution to the partners working in the cash assistance programme that targets the most vulnerable refugees in the country, and in the spirit of the nexus, since 2019, DG ECHO and DG NEAR agreed to transition the funding from the short-term humanitarian cycle to longer term programmes funded by the EU Madad Trust Fund. This evolution allowed for more predictable and longer-term funding opportunities for the refugees and paves the way for durable solutions (access to livelihoods) and self-reliance. In the meantime, DG ECHO continues to be actively involved in providing technical expertise to the EU Delegation.

EU Nexus for refugees in a stable context

Jordan has been hosting a large caseload of Syrian refugees since 2011. These refugees are still in need of basic services and financial support. The strategic EU partnership to support them in the short and longer term is providing lessons learned for the transition to predictable services - such as health and education - provided by the Government of Jordan and financially supported by development donors. While social safety nets and livelihood opportunities are delivered in close partnership with the UN agencies and INGOs, the sector is still in need of international support to align the programmes for refugees with the ones already in place by the Government in support of the host population.