

STANDARD FORM OF EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM FOR EUROPEAN UNION LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS

COM (2020) 358 final

Annual report on the European Union's humanitarian aid operations financed in 2019

Submitted by Department for International Development

21 August 2020

SUBJECT MATTER

1. This annual report outlines the main activities and policy achievements of the European Commission in the field of humanitarian aid and civil protection, carried out through its Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) during 2019.
2. In 2019, humanitarian needs kept increasing due to complex crises – often causing massive population displacement – as well as to natural disasters and epidemic outbreaks. Against this background, the EC Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) remained a leading humanitarian donor, allocating EUR 2.4 billion to millions of crisis-affected people in more than 80 countries. To address the growing humanitarian funding gap, DG ECHO continued promoting the implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments, notably in relation to multi-sectoral joint needs assessment.
3. A significant proportion of the EU humanitarian aid was devoted to crisis-affected people inside Syria and its neighbouring countries, including the humanitarian component of the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey. The EU also focused on supporting populations in "forgotten crises", such as in the Central African Republic, Sudan, Pakistan, Colombia, Venezuela, Haiti, and the Philippines.

Summary of geographical priorities

4. To address the complex crisis in the **Sahel**, the EU responded to the emergency humanitarian needs in Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Mali, Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon, by allocating EUR 188 million. This included Rapid Response Mechanisms (a three-month multi-sectoral emergency aid package) and support to existing national structures to maintain access to basic services.
5. In **Venezuela**, a total of EUR 55 million was allocated by the EU for the provision of humanitarian aid to displaced people and support to host communities. To ensure a close follow-up of interventions, DG ECHO established an office in Caracas in May. EUR 11 million was also allocated by DG ECHO to help people hit by conflict and natural disasters in Colombia and the region

6. DG ECHO allocated EUR 61 million to **Afghanistan**, focusing on emergency response and trauma care. In **Iran and Pakistan**, EU humanitarian aid assisted Afghan refugees and the most vulnerable local populations with EUR 18 million.
7. The EU has provided EUR 36 million of humanitarian assistance to the **Rohingya crisis**, both in Bangladesh and Myanmar, consisting of basic health care, water, sanitation, shelter, nutrition, education, protection, psychosocial support and disaster risk reduction.
8. A total of EUR 260 million was provided by the EU to deliver life-saving assistance inside **Syria** and for Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt for delivery of food, medicine, water, and shelter. In neighbouring **Lebanon and Jordan**, EU humanitarian funding contributed to cash assistance for the most vulnerable refugees, as the most cost-efficient and dignified delivery mode. DG ECHO was directly involved in international diplomatic initiatives such as the third Conference "Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region" held in Brussels
9. In **Iraq** 6.7 million people were still in need of humanitarian assistance, including 1.6 million IDPs of which 375 000 in camps. DG ECHO deployed operations worth EUR 38 million for emergency health care, basic shelter, safe water, sanitation and hygiene, and humanitarian protection, with a particular focus on IDPs.
10. In **Yemen**, DG ECHO deployed operations worth EUR 115 million to provide food, healthcare, education as well as water, shelter and hygiene kits to war-affected areas and displaced populations. The funding was used for treatment of severely malnourished children, fighting the cholera epidemic and outbreaks of measles and diphtheria, rehabilitation for the disabled, rehabilitation of classrooms, and support to the United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS), which provides critical and reliable air and sea transport to humanitarian aid workers.
11. As **Turkey** continues to host the largest refugee community in the world, under the first and second tranche of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRiT), the EU provided EUR 2.4 billion in humanitarian aid that supported around 1.7 million refugees through 64 projects, through 19 partner organisations working on basic needs, non-formal education, protection and health.
12. The EU humanitarian aid to **Bosnia and Herzegovina** amounted to EUR 3.8 million. Through its humanitarian partners, DG ECHO provided health, protection and outreach assistance (including identification of vulnerable individuals, provision of emergency food and non-food items, medical assistance, etc.) to refugees and migrants.

Horizontal priorities

13. In line with its previous commitments, DG ECHO dedicated 10% of the EU's 2019 humanitarian aid budget to Education in Emergencies and maintained its commitment to deliver 35% of humanitarian assistance through cash transfers. The report also notes DG ECHO is a member of the global initiative Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies. An Enhanced Response Capacity (DG ECHO programme) project run by UNFPA also promoted the development of inter-agency standards on GBV in emergencies.
14. DG ECHO also continued to support the development of innovative approaches through the Thematic Policies Annex to the Humanitarian Implementation Plans (HIPs), which encourages partners to lower the environmental footprint of humanitarian response by using digital approaches. The report further notes the details of ECHO Flight - the humanitarian air service with six aircrafts with a budget of 12.4 million, is free of charge for DG ECHO's partners and humanitarian organisations. In 2019, it supported over 250 projects, transported over 25 000 humanitarian aid workers, and around 200 tons of humanitarian cargo.

SCRUTINY HISTORY

15. See Annex One.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

16. The Secretary of State for International Development is responsible for UK policy on EU development and humanitarian matters.

INTEREST OF THE DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS

17. The UK's Foreign Affairs, Defence and International Development policies are reserved matters under the UK's devolution settlements. The Devolved Administrations have not been consulted in the preparation of this EM.

LEGAL AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES

- i. Legal Base: This is not a proposal for legislation. This is an annual report on the EU's Humanitarian operations in 2019.
- ii. Voting Procedure: None.
- iii. Timetable for adoption and implementation (or expected next steps for non-legislative documents): Not applicable.

iv. Does the proposal affect the substance of EU law that will remain in effect under the Northern Ireland Protocol or is it likely to be the subject of a request by the EU to be added to the Protocol under Article 13(4) thereof?: Not applicable.

v. Do JHA opt-in, Schengen opt-out issues arise?: Not applicable.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

18. The UK will continue to be an important player in areas of shared global challenges, and ECHO will remain an important institution in humanitarian response. The UK is open to discussing how we might cooperate with ECHO in the future where it is in our mutual interest.

19. ECHO remains one of the largest humanitarian donors in humanitarian assistance and humanitarian system reform efforts. We welcome this report and the progress outlined, much of which aligns with DFID's own priorities.

20. In addition to the policy priorities outlined in the report, DFID is working closely with ECHO on data and joint needs analysis. In collaboration with other major humanitarian donors, DFID is frequently engaged with UN OCHA on the processes and prioritisation of Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) and Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs), including joint advocacy, complementary funding to specific initiatives, and hosting joint donor meetings.

21. The UK remains aligned with the EU on our commitment to ensure compliance to International Humanitarian Law and the protection of vulnerable people.

CONSULTATION

22. No consultation is required for this Report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

23. This report has no financial implications for the UK budget.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes. The signature is positioned above the name of the signatory.

Rt Hon James Cleverly MP

ANNEX ONE

| DOC | TITLE | DATE |
|------------|--|---|
| 5668/20 | Annual report on the European Union's humanitarian aid operations financed in 2018 | Sent to Committees 14 February 2020 Cleared by House of Lords 26 February 2020 Cleared by House of Commons 1 May 2020 |
| UNNUMBERED | Annual Report on the EU's Humanitarian Aid Policies and their Implementation in 2017 | Sent to Committees 9 January 2018 Cleared by House of Lords 15 January 2018 Cleared by House of Commons 8 May 2018 |
| 15769/17 | General Guidelines on Operational Priorities for Humanitarian Aid in 2018 | Sent to Committees 11 January 2018 Cleared by House of Lords 17 January 2018 Cleared by House of Commons 24 January 2018 |
| 14642/17 | Annual Report of the EU humanitarian aid policies and their implementation in 2016 | Sent to Committees 4 December 2017 Cleared by House of Lords 12 December 2017 Cleared by House of Commons 19 December 2017 |

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| 15299/16 | General Guidelines on operational priorities for Humanitarian Aid in 2017 | Sent to Committees 21 December 2016 Cleared by House of Lords 12 January 2017 Cleared by House of Commons 01 March 2017 |
| 15298/16 | Annual report of the European Union's humanitarian aid and civil protection policies and their implementation in 2015 | Sent to Committees 21 December 2016 Cleared by House of Lords 12 January 2017 Cleared by House of Commons 18 January 2017 |
| 14695/15 | General Guidelines on Operational Priorities for Humanitarian Aid in 2016 | Sent to Committees 15 December 2015 Cleared by House of Lords 22 December 2015 Cleared by House of Commons 13 January 2016 |
| 11538/15 | Annual report on the EU's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection and their Implementation in 2014 | Submitted to the Committees on 15 September 2015 Cleared from the House of Lords 06 October 2015 Cleared from the House of Commons by debate 14 October 2016 |
| 16902-14 | General Guidelines on Operational Priorities for Humanitarian Aid in 2015 | Sent to Committees 4 February 2015 Cleared by House of Lords 10 February 2015 Cleared by House of Commons 18 March 2015 |
| 12770-14 COM (2014) 537 final | Annual Report on the European Union's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Policies and their Implementation in 2013. | Sent to Committees 1 October 2014 |

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| | | | Cleared by House of Lords 16 October 2014 |
| | | | Cleared by House of Lords 15 October 2014 |
| 17399-13 SWD (2013) 503 final + ADD 1 | General Guidelines Operational Priorities Humanitarian Aid in 2014 | on for | Sent to Committees 13 January 2014 |
| | | | Cleared by House of Lords 21 January 2014 |
| | | | Cleared by House of Lords 22 January 2014 |
| 14110-13 COM (2013) 660 final | Annual Report on the European Union's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Policies and their Implementation in 2012 | | Submitted to the Committees 17th October 2013 |
| | | | Cleared from House of Lords 22nd October 2013 |
| | | | Cleared from House of Commons 30th October 2013 |
| 16959-12 SWD (2012) 405 final + ADD 1 | General Guidelines Operational Priorities Humanitarian Aid in 2013 | on for | Sent to Committees 18 January 2013 |
| | | | Cleared by House of Lords 29 January 2013 |
| | | | Cleared by House of Commons 23 January 2013 |
| 13655-12 COM (2012) 489 final + ADD 1 | Annual Report on the European Union's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Policies and their Implementation in 2011 | | Sent to Committees 5 October 2012 |
| | | | Cleared by House of Lords 17 October 2012 |
| | | | Cleared by House of Commons 17 October 2012 |
| 11947-11 COM (2011) 343 final + ADD 1 | European Union Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Policies and their implementation in 2010 | | Sent to Committees 11 July 2011 |
| | | | Cleared House of Lords 12 July 2011 |
| | | | Cleared House of Commons 7 September 2011 |
| 8433-10 | Report from the Commission - Annual Report on the | | Sent to Committees 8 June 2010 |

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| COM SEC (2010) 398 final + ADD 1 | Humanitarian Aid Policy and its Implementation in 2009 | Cleared House of Lords 23 June 2010 Cleared House of Commons 8 September 2010 |
| 11872-09 COM (2009) 290 final | Report from the Commission - Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid - (ECHO) - Annual Report 2008 | Sent to Committees 27 July 2009 Cleared House of Lords 28 August 2009 Cleared House of Commons 14 October 2009 |
| 11709-08 COM (2008) 449 final ADD 1 | Report from the Commission - Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid - (ECHO) - Annual Report 2007 | Sent to Committees Cleared House of Lords Cleared House of Commons |
| 15605-07 | Annual Report from the Commission 2005 (humanitarian Aid Office ECHO) | Sent to Committees 16 January 2007 Cleared House of Lords 15 January 2007 Cleared House of Commons 16 January 2007 |
| 10965-07 + ADD 1 & 2 COM (2007) 317 final | Towards a European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid | Sent to Committees 5 July 2007 Cleared House of Lords 26 July 2007 Cleared House of Commons 28 November 2007 |
| 12174-06 | Annual Report from the Commission 2004 (humanitarian Aid Office ECHO) | Sent to Committees on 5 September 2006. Cleared House of Lords 6 September 2006. Cleared House of Commons 11 October 2006 |
| 14947-05 | Annual Report from the Commission 2004 (humanitarian Aid Office ECHO) | Sent to Committees on 16 December 2005. Cleared House of Lords 11 January 2006 |

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| | | Cleared House of Commons 12 January 2006 |
| 12236-04 | Annual Report from the Commission 2003 (humanitarian Aid Office ECHO) | Sent to Committees 30 September 2004. Cleared House of Lords 12 October 2004 Cleared House of Commons 13 October 2005 |
| 11643-03 | Annual Report from the Commission 2002 (humanitarian Aid Office ECHO) | Cleared from House of Commons 17 September 2003 |