

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)

SOUTHERN AFRICA INDIAN OCEAN¹

AMOUNT: EUR 65 050 868

The full implementation of this version of the HIP is conditional upon the approval of the transfer by the Budgetary Authorities.

The present Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) was prepared on the basis of financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2024/01000 (Worldwide Decision) and the related General Guidelines for Operational Priorities on Humanitarian Aid (Operational Priorities). The purpose of the HIP and its annexes² is to serve as a communication tool from DG ECHO³ to its partners and assist them in the preparation of their proposals. The provisions of the Worldwide Decision and the General Conditions of the Agreement with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

0. MAJOR CHANGES SINCE THE PREVIOUS VERSION OF THE HIP

Second modification as of 27/09/2024

Southern Africa is currently facing an unprecedented drought due to El Niño, among the strongest on record. The full impact on food security is still on the rise, and the number of acutely food insecure people has seen a major increase from 16.9 million in October 2023 to 23 million in July 2024. The hunger crisis will worsen and persist until the next harvest season (April/May 2025). In addition, there is a 70% chance of La Niña developing by the end of the year, with above average rainfalls expected from October 2024 to April 2025, and a heightened risk of cyclones and flooding towards the end of the year and in the first quarter of 2025.

Madagascar: The country is recurrently exposed to various major climatic shocks, including cyclones, floods and long periods of drought coupled with inflation impacting fuel costs. The humanitarian situation remains fragile because of the El Niño, natural hazards and economic and structural factors. During the current period from May to September 2024, approximately 12% of the rural population, or 1.22 million people, are affected by acute food insecurity (IPC3+). The districts with the highest food insecurity are Ambovombe, Androy and Amboasary Atsimo in the Grand Sud of Madagascar. For the first projected period from October to December 2024, the number of people in IPC3+ is expected to reach about 1.32 million, or 13% of the population in the areas analysed. In the second projected period from January to April 2025, a further deterioration in the food security situation is expected, with 1.78 million people, or about 17% of the population, who may need urgent humanitarian assistance.

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

² Technical annex and thematic policies annex

³ Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)

Malawi: The updated IPC was released on 5 July and informs that approximately 4.2 million people (20% of the analysed population) are expected to experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC3+) between May and September 2024, including 56,000 people in IPC4 (Emergency). Most of the population in IPC3+ are not able to produce enough of their own food and are dependent on market purchases for their food needs. The situation is expected to deteriorate during the projection period (October 2024 – March 2025) which coincides with the lean season. Nearly 5.7 million people (28% of the analysed population) are forecasted to be in IPC3+ with 416,000 people in IPC4. Malawi's nutrition situation is increasingly dire, driven by recurrent droughts, floods, and economic challenges. Vulnerable groups, particularly children under five and pregnant and lactating women, are severely affected. Between January and June 2024, more than 1.2 million children under five years have been screened for acute malnutrition in 15 districts.

Mozambique: The latest IPC published in July 2024 shows that between April and September 2024, an estimated 2.8 million people in the country are classified as IPC3+ and during the projected period October 2024 to March 2025, food insecurity is expected to worsen with an estimated population of 3.3 million in IPC3+. The number of people reported in IPC4 has significantly increased to 510,000 for the period under review and will further deteriorate to 777,000 for the projected period. Of the seven districts projected in IPC4, three are located in Cabo Delgado where the conflict continues to impact the food security in the province. It is estimated that about 144,270 children aged under 5 (11% of the total children population in the surveyed districts) and 23,158 pregnant and lactating women are affected by acute malnutrition. The main drivers of food insecurity in Mozambique are the impact on agri-production of El Niño-induced drought, tropical storm Filipo and other climate-related shocks, as well as the conflict in Northern Mozambique.

Zambia: The preliminary data of the Vulnerability Assessment Committee (Z-VAC), still pending Government's endorsement, confirms the major impact of El Niño-induced drought, with 91% of surveyed households being affected by the drought and 74.7% reporting loss of cropped fields. All crops reported reductions over the previous year, with a total maize deficit estimated at 2.1 million metric tonnes (MT). All food security indicators show a deterioration of the situation and 60.6% of surveyed markets report unavailability of staple cereals. The IPC analysis confirmed a significant increase over the previous IPC cycle of populations in IPC3+, estimated at 4.95 million people in the current period April – September 2024 (29% of the analysed population), and projected to increase to 5.83 million in the period October 2024 – March 2025 (33% of the population). An estimated 511,710 MT of cereal would be required to sustain households in IPC3+ districts until the next harvest. On nutrition, over 3 million children under 18 and 1.2 million children under 5 years are facing prolonged food insecurity and high risk of common childhood illness, vaccine preventable disease outbreaks and malnutrition. The drought has also significantly increased protection risks, including gender-based violence, early marriage, child labour, transactional sex, adolescent pregnancy and other forms of exploitation and abuse.

Zimbabwe: The rural livelihoods assessment report published in July 2024, shows that the economy is largely impacted by prolonged dry weather conditions due to El Niño, which exacerbates water scarcity and impacts agriculture, hydroelectric power generation and water supply for communities (drinking and sanitation). According to the report, there has been a decrease in the household average monthly income (from USD 116 in 2022 to USD 88 in

2024), in the proportion of households that received social assistance support from the Government (from 66% in 2023 to 43% in 2024), and in the proportion of households accessing basic water services (from 60% in 2023 to 52% in 2024). The report also shows cereal insecurity prevalence (projected at 57% during the peak hunger period in the 2024/25 consumption year) and a very high number of out of school children at the time of the assessment due to those financial challenges (22% nationally). 580,000 young children are living in severe food poverty, a number that is likely to rise with the current El Niño-induced drought.

In order to address the urgent humanitarian needs previously described the European Commission has mobilised an additional **EUR 25 million** for the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region from the European Union’s Emergency Aid Reserve. The indicative amount per country is as follows: EUR 4 million for Madagascar, EUR 6 million for Malawi, EUR 3 million for Mozambique, EUR 6 million for Zambia and EUR 6 million for Zimbabwe.

The reinforcement is to support the most affected and at-risk populations in Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe with immediate life-saving assistance focused on food security & livelihood, nutrition, complemented by health and protection where needed. Comprehensive responses targeting the most affected population will be prioritized. Geographical target areas in each country should be limited to those districts in IPC 4 or IPC 3 with a big proportion of IPC 4, complementing governments and other donors’ interventions. Multi-country proposals targeting the afore-listed countries will be considered provided clarity at proposal stage on country-specific interventions with corresponding country indicators/targets/activities. While the use of cash should systematically be considered, the modality choice should be informed by a needs-based response and risk analysis, incorporating joint and timely market analysis, operational and environmental analyses. Those activities shall start as soon as possible to prevent further deterioration.

Further specifications are provided in the Humanitarian Implementation Plan Technical Annex.

First modification as of 04/07/2024

This modification is intended to transfer **EUR 6 550 868** to be allocated to the IFRC pilot Programmatic Partnership action ‘Accelerating local action in humanitarian and health crises’.

1. CONTEXT

The Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (SAIO) region is prone to **disasters induced by natural hazards – exacerbated by climate change, environmental degradation and poor natural resources’ management – and human-induced hazards** caused by armed conflict and violence. Around 35 million people are already experiencing or forecast to experience high levels of food insecurity.⁴ The situation is exacerbated by a challenging political and socio-economic environment, internal conflict and insecurity. Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine moreover impacts global food prices and inflation.

⁴ SADC RVAA Synthesis Report 2022, [SADC RVAA Synthesis Report 2022 - ENG | SADC; IPC reports; Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee Report \(ZIMVAC\)](#)

In the 2022/2023 cyclonic season, the region was hit by cyclones Cheneso and Freddy, the latter being the longest lasting tropical cyclone on record that within 34 days wreaked havoc in the region, putting more pressure on an already fragile humanitarian situation. Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique, have been the countries hit hardest by the cyclonic season and the heavy consequent rainfalls and floods.

The security situation in **Cabo Delgado province, Northern Mozambique**, despite recent improvements, remains volatile and 2.3 million people are reported to be affected by the conflict, of which 2 million remain in need of life-saving and life-sustaining humanitarian assistance. Recent months have also been characterised by an important increase and growing trend in returns to the districts of origin while the number of IDPs remains high, with 850 599 individuals displaced in Northern Mozambique⁵. Civilians continue to bear the brunt of the armed violence: conflict-affected populations suffer from lack of food and water, inadequate sanitation and health services, insufficient shelter, and numerous protection risks.

Mozambique is the only country in the region where an EU integrated approach is being implemented encompassing security, peacebuilding, development and humanitarian actions.

Madagascar faces a mixture of acute and long-term needs, combining high levels of malnutrition, mortality and disease alongside high and chronic poverty levels, food insecurity and a lack of economic opportunity. Some 3.86 million people need urgent humanitarian assistance, with growing concerns about the population in the Great South and Southeast affected by the cyclones, while the population of Great South is still struggling to recover from the devastating drought that brought them at the brink of famine⁶. The degradation of livelihoods as well as community support has also further exacerbated the protection needs, where people are forced to resort to negative strategies, disproportionately affecting women and girls, to cope with the situation. Various factors aggravate the situation, including i) the response capacity from the central government, and limited access and presence of humanitarian aid, particularly relevant for the Great Southeast; ii) forced displacement driven mainly by violence and food insecurity; iii) limited capacity in terms of coordination and accountability and transparency in the use of funds.

⁵ [Mozambique — Mobility Tracking Assessment Report 19 \(August 2023\) | Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\)](#)

⁶ OCHA Flash Appeal Madagascar, Grand Sud and Grand Sud Est^[1] OCHA Flash Appeal Madagascar, Grand Sud and Grand Sud Est

DG ECHO's Funding Information Tool for 2024 and INFORM Risk⁷ and Severity⁸ indexes have identified high severity and very high risk in Mozambique due to the prevalence of the internal violence and insecurity in Cabo Delgado province, as well as high severity and risk related to the food and nutrition crisis across the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (SAIO) region, particularly in Madagascar, Angola and Zimbabwe.

	ANGOLA	BOTSWANA	COMOROS	ESWATINI	LESOTHO	MADAGASCAR	MALAWI	MAURITIUS	MOZAMBIQUE	NAMBIA	SEYCHELLES	SOUTH AFRICA	ZAMBIA	ZIMBABWE
INFORM Risk Index (0-10) 2024 figures	5.2	2.6	3.3	3.3	3.6	5.5	4.4	2.1	6.7	3.8	1.5	4.5	3.9	4.1
Hazard and Exposure	4.2	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.2	4.0	2.2	1.7	6.1	2.3	1.2	4.9	1.8	2.3
Vulnerability	5.1	3.7	4.8	4.5	5.5	5.7	6.2	1.9	7.9	4.8	1.0	4.6	5.9	5.3
Lack of Coping Capacity	6.7	4.5	7.1	5.3	6.9	7.1	6.3	2.8	6.2	5.0	2.6	4.0	5.7	5.8
INFORM Severity Index (0-5) ACAPS September figures	3.1			2.3		2.8	3.2		3.5	2.5			3.0	3.5
Impact of the crisis	2.8			2.2		3.1	3.6		3.9	2.8			3.1	3.9
Condition of people affected	3.9			2.7		3.6	3.6		3.5	3.0			3.4	3.6
Complexity of the crisis	2.2			1.9		1.5	2.5		3.3	1.5			2.3	3.0
Number of People in Need	3.7			2.3		4.1	4.1		3.9	2.9			3.8	4.1
Human Development Index (0-1)	0.586	0.693	0.558	0.597	0.514	0.501	0.512	0.802	0.446	0.615	0.785	0.713	0.565	0.593
Total Population	35 588 990	2 630 300	836 770	1 201 670	2 305 820	29 611 710	20 405 320	1 262 520	32 969 520	2 567 010	100 060	59 893 890	20 017 670	16 320 540

2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

2.1. People in need of humanitarian assistance:

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

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

Around 35 million people across the SAIO region⁹ are food insecure both in rural and urban areas due to natural and human-induced hazards affecting harvest production, including

⁷ INFORM Risk is a global, open-source risk assessment for humanitarian crises and disasters:

<https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Risk>

⁸ The INFORM Severity Index is a way to objectively measure and compare the severity of humanitarian crises and disasters globally: <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Severity>

⁹ SADC RVAA Synthesis Report 2022, [SADC RVAA Synthesis Report 2022 - ENG | SADC: IPC reports: Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee Report \(ZIMVAC\)](#)

drought (Madagascar and Angola), conflict (Mozambique), macro-economic crisis (Zimbabwe) impacting livelihood in the entire region. IPC analyses are only available and updated for a few countries including Eswatini, Madagascar and Malawi. In these countries, nearly 6.5 million people are experiencing severe food insecurity (IPC3+), out of which over 468 000 are facing emergency levels (IPC4).

Currently, there are more than 3.8 million children facing Acute Malnutrition in the region, of which over 1.2 million facing severe acute malnutrition (SAM)¹⁰. The root causes of malnutrition in the SAIO region are generally associated to multiple causes, such as increased food insecurity, poor dietary diversity and child feeding practices, limited access to services including to health care and, in the case of Northern Mozambique, to population displacement. The region is now expected to be threatened by the potential impact of El Niño in the upcoming months that will contribute to exacerbate the food security and nutrition situation.

b. Vulnerable populations exposed to disasters induced by natural hazards

Natural multi-hazards, which are increasingly frequent and violent, damage critical public infrastructures and houses, including roads leading to inaccessibility and delayed humanitarian assistance, temporary displacement and in some cases to long-term displacement. These events would be exacerbated by El Niño and considerably undermine the livelihood of the affected population. The combined effects of recent events (tropical storms, cyclones, floods, droughts and crop pests) have reduced food production for up to 70% of the region's population that depends on agriculture for food, income and employment.

Exposure to high levels of disaster risk, and lack of capacity to manage these risks, means that poor households are trapped in a cycle of food insecurity and poverty that quickly deteriorates into a food crisis and acute undernutrition when a disaster occurs.

c. Out-of-school children

Nearly 12 million children are out-of-school in the SAIO region¹¹. In high-risk disaster-prone areas **children are often dropping out or missing school** due to closure of schools during conflict, use of schools as evacuation centres, inadequate school infrastructures, which cannot withstand disasters, damage to school infrastructure and learning equipment, inaccessibility of schools due to destruction of roads and bridges, or in the most food insecure areas, due to lack of financial resources. Countries have re-opened schools, but various forms of education disruption will remain for several months. In addition, in Northern Mozambique, teachers are targets of armed groups and schools are destroyed or damaged. Over 50 per cent of the forcibly displaced population are children seeking protection and safety. This influx puts further strain on an already over-stretched education system. Students, especially girls, from poorer households or with disabilities, are often the first to suffer reduced access to education, and increased protection risks, especially during the period between October and April coinciding with the lean and cyclone seasons.

¹⁰ UNICEF/WHO Joint Malnutrition Estimates 2023

¹¹ UNICEF Global Education Monitoring Report 2022

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

Across the region over 1.5 million¹² people are currently internally displaced in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, out of which over 850 000 IDPs¹³ are displaced due to violence and insecurity in northern Mozambique. Conflict-affected populations in Mozambique suffer from lack of food and water, inadequate sanitation and health services, insufficient shelter, and numerous protection risks. An estimated 72% of IDPs are living with host communities; most of them are also food insecure in a region classified in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)¹⁴ 3+ (crisis and above).

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

e. Refugees, asylum-seekers and returning migrants

The region is hosting over 400 000 refugees, asylum seekers and other people of concern¹⁵, mainly from Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi. The main drivers that lead people to seek refuge in neighbouring countries are recurrent conflicts, economic challenges in their home countries and disasters. These populations are dependent on humanitarian assistance as they have very limited options to engage in livelihood activities. Most seek refuge in South Africa, followed by Malawi, Zambia, Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

In Zimbabwe, forcibly returned migrants from South Africa, of which the majority are children and women, need protection and a safe environment. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, approximately 500 000 Zimbabwean migrants have already been sent back to their country¹⁶. Many more may be forced to return by end 2023 given the expiration of the Zimbabwean exemption permits and its grace period in South Africa. This is increasing the pressure on communities in areas of return already significantly affected by protracted crisis in addition to unemployment, and the need to increase social services, protection and livelihood opportunities that were already under strain.

2.2. Description of the most acute humanitarian needs

a. Food Security & Livelihood

The countries most affected by food insecurity, classified in emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) include Angola, Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine will continue to have a direct impact on food security in the region and fuel prices inflation.

¹² <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/rbsa>

¹³ [Mozambique — Mobility Tracking Assessment Report 19 \(August 2023\) | Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\)](#)

¹⁴ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification measures the levels of severity of acute food insecurity: (1) Minimal/None, (2) Stressed, (3) Crisis, (4) Emergency, (5) Catastrophe/Famine

¹⁵ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/rbsa>

¹⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/iom-zimbabwe-annual-report-2021>

The food security situation is undermined by recurrent hydrometeorological hazards, high dependency on rains and poor agriculture techniques, depleted soil fertility, crop pests, land access disputes, lack of access to food and volatile food prices. Localised conflicts, social tensions, governance and social and economic issues further compound the situation. Accessibility to hard-to-reach areas due to poor transport infrastructures is a challenge.

In Mozambique, the combined effects of the conflict in the Northern provinces and climatic shocks, such as droughts, cyclones, floods and erratic rains, have led to at least 3.15 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC 3 or above) between November 2022 and March 2023, including 400 000 people in emergency (IPC 4). This includes at least 1.65 million people facing acute food insecurity in Northern Mozambique (only 8 of 17 districts assessed in Cabo Delgado due to access constraints).

The IPC analysis for Madagascar’s Great South and Great Southeast published on 22 August 2023 identified that currently 1.08 million people (16%) in 22 districts are experiencing high level of acute food insecurity, with 51 000 in emergency (IPC 4). The projections show a progressive deterioration trend, culminating from January to April 2024, with about 1.1 million people in Great South and 651 000 in Great Southeast needing urgent assistance due to cyclones, floods, and erratic rainfall. Overall, 1.72 million people (26%) will require immediate assistance.

In Zimbabwe, FEWS NET projections show an increase in the number of districts with IPC 3 and 4 during October 2023 to January 2024. The below average incomes and harvests will further reduce food access in the south, east, west, and extreme north of the country during that period. Prices for food and basic commodities are projected to come under further pressure considering the increase of international prices. Zimbabwe is 60% import dependent for wheat and its products. Nearly 4.25 million people (26% of the population) in both urban (1.5 million) and rural (2.7 million) are projected to face food insecurity in 2023/24.

b. Nutrition

According to the WHO/UNICEF Joint Malnutrition Estimates 2023, over 575 000 children under the age of five are facing moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), while over 256 000 children suffer under severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in Mozambique. In Madagascar, between June 2023 and April 2024, acute malnutrition is likely to worsen significantly. Approximately 458 700 children under five are likely to suffer acute malnutrition. Among them, over 121 000 children are expected to suffer from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and nearly 338 000 children are expected to experience Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). The districts likely to be most severely affected are Nosy Varika and Ikongo in Great Southeast (Phase 4) as well as Amboasary, Betroka, Betioky, and Beloha in Great South (Phase 3).

c. Education in Emergencies (EiE)

In the region, access to education for children can be hampered by natural events, conflict or social vulnerabilities which can result in the lack of teachers, different usage of schools (as shelter after natural events, or even for military purposes in full breach of the Safe Schools

Declaration¹⁷) or pushing students to leave their home communities and not having adequate temporary alternative educational solutions. Most of these children have also been through traumatic events which require a strong psychosocial support (PSS) and more broadly protection responses. Food insecurity is also a cause of undermined school attendance because of negative coping strategies such as child labour or school dropouts.

The needs include both hardware (Temporary Learning Space, schools' rehabilitation and WASH infrastructure) and soft components (such as Accelerated Education Programmes, catch-up programmes, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, but also extensive teacher training activities), for permanent and alternative education solutions, also targeting children on the move. Likewise, it may be pertinent to invest into rapid education response, particularly in the context of conflict settings.

d. Protection

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

In the region, vulnerable people (women, children, elderly, persons with special needs) are turning to negative coping mechanisms such as early or forced marriage, forms of child labour and sexual exploitation, due to armed conflict, extreme food insecurity, disasters and limited or no access to basic services.

The region is facing a high prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV), most notably sexual violence, as a result of the pandemic, poverty, armed conflict and climate-induced disasters. Due to the lack of access to energy, water and/or basic services, women and girls have to travel long distances increasing their exposure to protection risks. This has expanded the risk of HIV transmission and the need for more protection and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Acute stress and traumatic events require a strong psychosocial support (PSS) and more broadly protection responses. Community mechanisms, basic services and coordination need to be maintained and strengthened to mitigate the protection needs of the population. Given that more than 50% of the population is under 18 years old, child protection is a humanitarian necessity.

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

In Madagascar, the increased insecurity created by armed groups (Dahalo) and the food insecurity resulting from drought seriously undermine the protection of the civilian population. Child abuse and gender-based violence are increasing, pupils are dropping out of school and cases of child exploitation are increasing. In particular, the lack of access to adequate food forces families to adopt negative copying mechanism, such as early marriage, child labour, deprivation of resources etc. This disproportionately affects women and girls, as well as

¹⁷ An inter-governmental political commitment to protect students, teachers, schools, and universities from the worst effects of armed conflict add UNDRR framework

adolescents a group whose needs are often overlooked. The trends in violence are not sufficiently understood to provide an appropriate, safe and dignified response, based on the principle of doing no harm.

The establishment of a protective humanitarian response remains of paramount importance in the countries affected by a humanitarian crisis in the region.

e. Health

Risk of epidemics for food and water borne disease such as cholera and typhoid fever is high in several countries. In 2023, cholera has been particularly affecting Malawi (unprecedented outbreak with very high case fatality rates) and to a lesser extent Mozambique. Prevention, preparedness and response to future events and stand-by capacities needs to be improved both in scope and timeliness.

Over 15 million people across the region live with HIV¹⁸. The risk of HIV transmission has increased notably because of GBV. Continuity of care and services is of concern during acute humanitarian emergencies (displacement).

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

f. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Large-scale disasters from natural hazards (cyclones, floods, droughts), disease outbreaks (e.g., cholera) and conflicts such as Northern Mozambique undermine the regular and reliable access to safe water supply and other WASH services, in particular for health and education facilities. The conflicts are displacing many communities from their local areas thus causing need for emergency humanitarian WASH response. Competition over access to scarce water resources during humanitarian emergencies fuel tensions between host communities and the displaced populations. Considering the high frequency of natural hazards in the region, support to preparedness and emergency WASH response is essential.

g. Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

The provision of shelters and NFIs at the onset of a crisis is critical for populations displaced by disasters from natural hazards or conflict in order to alleviate suffering and mortality risks. With violent attacks continuing in Cabo Delgado, most displaced people first seek shelter with host families, who themselves most often do not have adequate shelter conditions. Hosting displaced people often leads to overcrowding, unhealthy living conditions and increased vulnerability. Moreover, the high frequency of cyclones and floods often leads to depletion of the prepositioned stocks in the region due to large emergency shelter and NFI needs. Considering vulnerabilities across the region, there is a need to strategically preposition shelter and non-food items to allow a timely and effective humanitarian response. The risks posed by

¹⁸ UNAIDS Data 2023

climate shocks in the region require the elaboration of contingency and response plans, with sustainable risk proof rehabilitation methods.

h. Disaster Preparedness (DP)

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

Important progress has been made in the region in terms of promoting, developing and harmonising anticipatory action approaches for natural (volcanos, earthquakes etc.) and climate-induced hazards, at the same time, these need to be further strengthened and scaled up to also include human-induced disasters. Where feasible, anticipatory action approaches should be linked to shock responsive social protection systems (SRSP) and advocacy and reinforcement of existing SRSP to expand vertically and/or horizontally remains important.

It is important to continue strengthening national and regional preparedness capacities, building on previous actions/investments, including support to the development and operationalisation of national multi-sectoral Anticipatory Action (AA) strategies suitable to respond to different hazards. Linked to the Anticipatory Action, reinforcing cash readiness will allow for rapid and early/anticipated cash responses.

Therefore, joint preparedness with authorities and other stakeholders, informed by dynamic risk analysis of current and future climate change, environmental and conflict-related risks should be encouraged and promoted.

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

i. Logistics

In view of ensuring a swift humanitarian response to a sudden onset disaster and/or worsening of an existing crisis, there is a need to reinforce support to logistics and consider when operational gaps are identified, options to access the European Humanitarian Response Capacities. The possibility to mobilise additional air assets in-country (last mile delivery approach) are additional opportunities to fill critical gaps by facilitating humanitarian aid delivery and reinforce emergency responses, as has been the case for Mozambique and Madagascar hit by the cyclones in 2023. In Madagascar, an EU HAF MI8 helicopter reinforced UNHAS operation. The helicopter was flexible and positioned on the main airfield or heliport close to the affected areas. It also transported emergency teams directly to affected communities.

3. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND COORDINATION

3.1. National / local response and involvement

- (1) Regional level: In the SAIO region, there is a conducive environment to pilot, learn and scale up the use of innovative and green technologies as well as collaboration with institutions such as research institutes, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC) and Regional/National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS). The SADC Disaster Risk Reduction Unit has the mandate to develop effective frameworks and programmes to facilitate disaster risk management (DRM) coordination, implementation (including Sendai Framework for DRR), monitoring and evaluation, as well as mainstreaming of DRR into development policies and programmes of the Member States. The SADC Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy and Fund 2016-2030 describes the regional priorities and highlights key gaps to be addressed, e.g., a regional DRM data system, a regional disaster response mechanism and a Regional Emergency Response Team. There is however a need to improve the operationalisation of the strategy and promote further coordination between disaster preparedness and response structures at regional and national level.
- (2) National level: Governments face difficulties to provide complete preparedness and responses due to uneven technical capacity of the National Disaster Management Authorities (NDMA), ineffective coordination, insufficient resources, delayed communication/dissemination, and various limitations within the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS). The DMAs in Mozambique, Madagascar and Malawi have been active during the multiple cyclone responses, providing personnel, equipment and some financial resources, although the rapid response capacity, coordination and risk knowledge and communication components of early warning need to be strengthened. Nonetheless, Freddy's double landfalls in 2023 confirmed to a degree that the past DP investments in Mozambique and Madagascar have paid off. The decision to move towards a system approach has had a clear added value in Mozambique, with good ownership by the National Institute of Disaster Management. Integration between disaster and disease outbreak management should be encouraged.
- (3) DG ECHO has a particular interest in supporting localisation efforts (see the new DG ECHO guidance note of March 2023), through ensuring the participation of local actors throughout the humanitarian response cycle and through more equitable partnerships. This builds on the experience gained in the implementation of prior Humanitarian Implementation Plans. As an example, in Madagascar, a number of ECHO-funded iNGOs are implementing their actions together with the national NGOs, which not only reinforces the local knowledge and sectoral expertise within the partnership, but also provides a longer-term perspective to addressing protracted needs. All proposals are expected to provide support to local and national implementing partners to strengthen their technical capacities to respond, and to encourage their incorporation in local and national coordination structures.

3.2. International Humanitarian Response

Funding appeals 2023	Amount (million USD)	Funding level as of 15/10
Mozambique Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2023	512.9	34.8%
Mozambique Cholera, Cyclone and Floods 2023	138	16.1%
Madagascar Flash Appeal 2023	214.7	50.9%
Malawi Cholera and Floods Flash Appeal 2023	115.9	32.5%

In 2023, the most important donors for Food Assistance in the region are USA (BHA/USAID), EU/ECHO, EU MS (such as Ireland, Sweden, Germany), Japan, Russia and China.

The main donors involved in disaster preparedness/mitigation in the SAIO Region are the EU and its Member States (such as Germany, Ireland, Belgium) and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Irish Northern Aid Committee (NORAID), United States Agency for International Development/Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), the World Bank/Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), several UN agencies, framed within long-term development strategies with some integrating wider climate change adaptation programmes.

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

Humanitarian Coordination: OCHA is present in Mozambique and Madagascar. There is a need to invest more on prevention and management of disasters induced by natural and human hazards and call for more coordination and operationalisation of the nexus within the EU integrated approach and throughout the region.

3.3. Operational constraints in terms of:

- 1) Access/humanitarian space:

Some countries in the region have well developed transport, logistical, communication infrastructures and hubs (e.g., South Africa) and serve the whole region. However, access to the most vulnerable population can be restricted or limited because of several factors such as political reasons (before/after elections, sensitivity during emergency situations, etc), bureaucratic impediments, security events (because of conflict or social unrest) and logistic constraints. Some of those reasons also have a localised negative impact on the humanitarian space.

In Northern Mozambique, humanitarian actors are operating in a complex humanitarian environment. Access is a huge challenge with both security and logistical constraints (infrastructure and remoteness/last mile delivery, availability, safety and costs of transport, bureaucratic and administrative challenges) to reach the most vulnerable. The security measures for humanitarian personnel need to be scaled up. Following the deployment of Rwandan and SAMIM troops in the historically marginalised province of Cabo Delgado, and specifically in areas of abundant natural resources, the private sector is expected to scale up its

contribution towards the reactivation of public services, which would assist the conflict-affected local population in meeting their needs.

Given the presence of a large range of armed forces on the ground (including the army, special police forces and private security companies, regional military troops deployed in support, as well as Non-State Armed Groups), a solid and effective civil-military coordination is essential to ensure both the protection of civilians and humanitarian workers, ensure access and to promote a principled humanitarian response in such a complex setting.

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

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

3) Other:

Humanitarian organisations may operate in a context with risks related to instrumentalisation of humanitarian assistance and access, corruption, aid diversion, fraud and sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, and all partners must therefore take adequate prevention and control measures. The appraisal of proposals will also be informed by past assessment of implementation and monitoring mechanisms proposed to prevent these risks, as well as the context of intervention, geographical locations, and identified needs. DG ECHO partners are expected to actively cooperate in reporting immediately any such issues as well as effectively prevent, detect and correct these situations. Some areas frequently affected by disasters are often or always difficult to reach due to logistical constraints. The preparedness capacity in those recurrently affected areas needs further investment to ensure a more efficient response capacity, including shared warehousing and transport services.

4. HUMANITARIAN – DEVELOPMENT – PEACE NEXUS

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

i. Mozambique

The EU is implementing an integrated approach to respond to the multi-dimensional needs of the populations affected by the armed violence in Cabo Delgado. Such integrated approach includes humanitarian, development, peacebuilding, and security interventions which often complement each other thus giving opportunities for expansion and stronger nexus.

Under the **security component**, for example, the EU military training mission in Mozambique (EUTM) integrates the roll-out of training modules on protection of civilians, International Humanitarian Law and human rights for military actors which complements and provide opportunities to scale up humanitarian efforts to roll-out protection services in conflict-affected districts as well as to enhance Civil-Military Coordination in the areas of humanitarian operations.

The multi-annual indicative programme (MIP) 2021-2024 of the **EU development cooperation** in Mozambique with an allocation of EUR 428 million includes a comprehensive package targeting the North of Mozambique. The 2022 Annual Action Plan allocates an amount in the order of EUR 193 million to a number of actions for the stabilisation¹⁹, peacebuilding, education, access to water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, climate resilience, and energy. Many of the ongoing interventions are already complementing DG ECHO humanitarian assistance and provide opportunities for further expansion to districts/communities chronically underserved whose meagre resources were heavily affected by the conflict. For instance, while the ‘Resilience for the North’ (ResiNorte) action seeks to enhance immediate stabilisation and reconstruction of the districts most severely affected by armed violence, it also aims to set up a protective environment and build resilience for girls, women, and youth as well as to provide access to livelihoods, promote social cohesion and prevent conflict. Furthermore, the EU support to education in Mozambique offers nexus opportunities between DG ECHO Education in Emergencies interventions provided in Northern Mozambique and the support to education as a priority sector.

The **EU Foreign Policy Instrument (FPI)** has ongoing and upcoming projects amounting to approximately EUR 16 million for crisis response and conflict prevention actions in Northern Mozambique. Within this portfolio, FPI is notably supporting the setting up of Child Rights Monitoring Mechanisms (CRMM) and creating learning opportunities for children. This includes the provision of temporary learning spaces, non-formal education and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support targeting vulnerable and at-risk children.

ii. Madagascar

In Madagascar, nexus opportunities lie in the joint efforts to 1/ find sustainable solutions to address the acute levels of food and nutrition insecurity in the Great South and 2/ continue providing support to people affected by the cyclonic seasons since 2022. It has been translated in a joint work to design development programmes reinforcing EU humanitarian response.

In the Great South of Madagascar, the recurrent crisis required a more integrated way to respond. Articulation, synergies and complementarities between the emergency response to malnutrition and food insecurity in the Great South and the DG INTPA's Green Deal action, will support the resilience of the population and institutions. Both DG ECHO emergency responses and DG INTPA's Green Deal actions are aligned with the new national policy on sustainable food systems which has been developed thanks to EU funding and technical support from FAO and CIRAD²⁰. Complementarities and synergies are also contemplated in the reinforcement of the early warning system in the Great South, for climate change adaptation

¹⁹ Resilience for the North’ (ResiNorte)

²⁰ CIRAD is the French agricultural research and cooperation organisation working for the sustainable development of tropical and Mediterranean regions.

and for the protection of affected people (building a continuum of care for GBV survivors with health and social protection).

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

Following the 2021/2022 cyclonic season, DG ECHO mobilised humanitarian funds and coordinated EU Civil Protection assistance while EU development funds contributed to a series of assessments and support to recovery. This was the case for the EU response to the Batsirai cyclone in Madagascar in 2022. The mobile clinics put in place by Médecins du Monde in the aftermath of the cyclone with DG ECHO funding provided assistance to basic health care, psychosocial support and gender-based violence. This intervention is continued with EU development support.

iii. Regional

The 2024 DG ECHO Disaster Preparedness programming will help consolidate the many partnerships developed over time with National Disaster Management Agencies and regional donor initiatives related to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (e.g., Resilience building and Disaster Response Management in the Indian Ocean programme). Two notable examples of nexus are: the ‘Disaster Risk Management Strengthening in the Southern Africa Development Community (DRMSS) Project’ for the SADC, coordinated by the EU Delegation in Gaborone (Botswana) as part of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) and the Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Programme (NDRRP) – ‘Resilience Building and Disaster Response Management in the Indian Ocean Region’ for the Indian Ocean, coordinated by the EU Delegation Mauritius and Seychelles, equally part of the 11th EDF.

There are also synergies with SADC and South Africa initiatives supported by EU development funds to develop further the regional climate prediction and climate services offered by regional climate centres and by national hydro-meteorological organisations, in partnership with EUMETSAT²¹, ECWMF²² and relevant MS institutions.

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

5.1. Envisaged DG ECHO response

5.1.1 Priorities

The 2024 HIP for the SAIO builds on past experiences and reinforces the 2023 HIP response. Some ongoing and multi-year projects fully funded in 2022 and 2023 will run into 2024 and will complement new 2024 HIP interventions. In that respect, the focus will remain on Mozambique and Madagascar, which are the main humanitarian hotspots in the region requiring a dedicated emergency response. The security situation in Northern Mozambique is

²¹ EUMETSAT is the European operational satellite agency for monitoring weather, climate and the environment from space

²² European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts

highly volatile, and already forced nearly 1 million people to seek refuge in more secure places in Cabo Delgado and neighbouring provinces and 2 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. In Madagascar, up to 1.7 million people in the Great South and Great Southeast are highly vulnerable and food insecure requiring special attention.

The strategy is composed of three mutually reinforcing pillars:

Pillar 1 (Emergency Response) will cover multi-sectoral response to climate and human-induced disasters affecting Mozambique, Madagascar and Zimbabwe and reinforce the regional response capacity. **Pillar 2 (Education in Emergencies)** will target Mozambique to complement the actions funded under pillar 1. **Pillar 3 (Disaster Preparedness)** will complement actions funded under pillar 1 and 2 in Mozambique and Madagascar and enlarge the scope to cover in addition regional and multi-country interventions. To summarise, the 2024 HIP structure is as follows:

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

In the event of unforeseen or sudden-onset events, emergency responses to new crises in the region, in countries with limited capacity to cope, and/or where national or local capacity may be overwhelmed, will be supported should more funding become available. In addition, crisis modifiers are embedded in the actions supported in SAIO to give a degree of flexibility to respond to a sudden-onset crisis within a crisis.

Synergies with EU Civil Protection Mechanism, nexus opportunities with other EU instruments and the Authorities will be explored where practical and feasible.

Crosscutting priorities for all Pillars - i) Adherence to humanitarian principles; ii) Protection mainstreaming²³ and accountability; iii) Prevent corruption, aid diversion and fraud; iv) Use of innovative and green solutions as well as technologies aimed at enhancing efficiency; v) Coordination and alignment with national policies and guidelines; vi) Nexus; vii) Visibility and communication; viii) The application of the minimum environmental requirements in project proposals (cross-cutting and sector-specific) is mandatory and it will weigh into the appraisal of projects. The environmental impacts of a specific humanitarian response should be mitigated across sectors, projects and programmes and mainstreamed across the response activities with the goal of reducing their environmental footprint; ix) Under its localisation agenda, DG ECHO encourages proposals that include capacity strengthening and capacity sharing methodologies and initiatives, including institutional capacity strengthening of local/national actors. Similarly, DG ECHO will support partners in providing local/national actors with safety- and security-related resources and equipment to mitigate risks, including safety- and security-related training, where such costs are shown to contribute to achieving the objectives of the action.

²³ Refer to ECHO Protection guidance note and toolkit

Pillar 1: Emergency response

This pillar will provide needs-based, rapid and lifesaving multi-sectoral humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable populations affected by climate-induced and/or human-induced disasters. The main focus will be given to specific underserved conflict-affected population/districts in Cabo Delgado, Northern Mozambique (priority 1), to people most in need in Great South and Southeast of Madagascar (priority 2), Zimbabwe's most vulnerable population (priority 3) and allow for quick preparedness and response in other potentially affected countries if unforeseen disasters happen and funding becomes available (priority 4). It will address gender, age and disability vulnerabilities. As already mentioned, protection mainstreaming should be embedded in all humanitarian action to ensure the centrality of protection.

Priority 1: Northern Mozambique (Cabo Delgado crisis) – multi-sectoral and life-saving humanitarian assistance

In response to the consequences of the Cabo Delgado crisis, an integrated and **coordinated multisectoral humanitarian assistance** will be supported with priority on covering the basic needs of the most vulnerable, underserved and hard-to-reach People of Concern (PoC). Given security-related displacements as well as in anticipation of potential returns of IDPs to areas of origin during the lifespan of the HIP, the response also calls for a reinforcement of the **rapid response mechanism (RRM)**, a flexible framework enabling the pooling of partners' capacities to respond quickly to new emergencies. DG ECHO will also look at **second line/static** responses that have the necessary **flexibility** to adapt to changes in the context that could come in complementarity of RRM activities if it was to happen in the same districts. For both RRM and second line/static response, priority will be given to actions that seek to cover under-served districts severely affected by the conflict with high IDP populations such as Nangade, Mueda, Macomia, Muidumbe, Meluco, Quissanga and the south of Mocimboa da Praia.

Mainstreaming of protection should include enhanced Complaint and Feedback Mechanisms. All actors and their respective interventions need to ensure a protective environment to the victims of conflict. DG ECHO will consider integrated actions with specific protection outcomes.

Food assistance will be provided within an integrated and multi-sectoral approach (incl. integrating protection to avoid negative coping mechanisms) preferably using unconditional cash-based response modalities.

Humanitarian coordination (including information management and preparedness) is essential in such a complex crisis. Moreover civil-military coordination is also instrumental in view of the multiplicity of armed actors in the context. In this perspective, DG ECHO will continue its support to UNOCHA in the framework of the Programmatic Partnership Agreement started in 2022.

Priority 2: Madagascar (Great South and Southeast) – Basic Needs Approach with a strong integration of protection

DG ECHO's emergency funding should focus on an integrated multisectoral response through multi-purpose cash transfers and emergency health/nutrition actions (including relevant referral systems), with a strong protection integration approach (targeting especially children, pregnant and lactating mothers). Complementary short-term emergency livelihood activities could be considered.

Priority 3: Strengthened cash response and coordination in Zimbabwe

DG ECHO's support for Zimbabwe in 2024 will continue to focus on basic survival services for the most vulnerable populations affected by severe food insecurity and exposed to protection risks. Priority will be given to integrated multi-purpose cash and protection assistance for the most vulnerable affected by food insecurity in urban areas.

Priority 4: Emergency repositioning in SAIO

To respond to unforeseen disasters or increased severity of identified crisis, DG ECHO encourages the set-up and usage of multiple but strategic location repositioning of adequate ready-to-use emergency stocks and stand-by capacities for multi-sector response. This priority is set for the SAIO region with particular attention to countries at higher risk: Mozambique, Madagascar, Malawi, and Zimbabwe.

Based on experience of past cyclonic seasons, the repositioning of stocks is instrumental also to timely support first response interventions in the countries, provided such stocks are accessible to all partners, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) or Early Action Plans (EAPs) structuring clearly sequenced interventions integrated into existing national contingency planning processes are in place and have been tested.

<i>Pillar 2: Education in emergencies (EiE)</i>
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The provision of EiE interventions is highly relevant for displaced populations, their host communities and people staying behind in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, as the conflict continues to cause education disruption for thousands of pupils. The focus will be to ensure safe learning spaces and provision of adequate education programmes for children in areas affected by violence and forced displacement.

The priorities under the EiE pillar are to ensure education continuation in the context of conflict and displacement. While integrating Conflict Sensitive Education (CSE) principles in the response, it is important to provide adapted education and child protection programmes including accelerated education programmes or catch-up programmes; psychosocial services and social-emotional learning; safe and temporary learning spaces and psychosocial support to teachers and pupils, ensure teacher recruitment and retention (as teachers leave due to general insecurity) and monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children. Small-scale rehabilitation/extension of existing schools can be considered. A special attention will continue to be paid to the needs of girls in accordance with the recommendation of the European Court of Auditors. Environmental activities (e.g. extracurricular activities) should be considered in the day-to-day running of schools.

The assistance will prioritise newly displaced people, notably in hard-to-reach districts, people staying behind as well as IDPs and their host communities in Cabo Delgado such as Nangade, Mueda, Macomia, Muidumbe, Meluco, Quissanga and the south of Mocimboa da Praia. Integration and/or linkages of EiE activities into/with the RRM can be considered.

Pillar 3: Disaster Preparedness (DP)

In accordance with the global Disaster Preparedness (DP) guidance of DG ECHO, the four DP priorities are: (1) anticipatory action such as Early Warning Systems; (2) preparedness in conflict/fragile settings (notably in Mozambique); (3) climate and environmental resilience and (4) urban preparedness.

Support is envisaged for enhanced Disaster Preparedness for response and early/anticipatory action in contexts of recurrent and predictable crises, building upon ongoing actions and lessons learned from recent crises, and linking to national systems and longer-term strategies. This includes supporting national disaster management systems at central and community levels, reinforcing early warning systems, and linking early warning to early action.

Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) preparedness and readiness will become an intrinsic part of DP activities and, whenever possible, linked to Shock Responsive Social Protection Systems (SRSPS) to ensure timely and more appropriate and efficient use of cash. Advocacy for cash preparedness and technical support to national authorities and local partner organisations is crucial.

Logistics preparedness in line with the DG ECHO logistic policy will be integrated during risk assessments and when promoting emergency stockpiling with an aim of improving the effectiveness of the response process. Partners are encouraged to work with local implementing partners, and to promote active involvement of targeted communities and their representatives, as well as authorities at all levels.

The IFRC pilot Programmatic Partnership action (PP) ‘Accelerating local action in humanitarian and health crises’ is implemented in Eswatini, Madagascar and Zambia. Complementarities between DP actions in those countries and the IFRC pilot Programmatic Partnership will have to be sought.

In terms of disaster preparedness, the focus of this HIP will be on Madagascar, Mozambique, and regional/multi-country projects. The priorities for DG ECHO under the DP pillar are set in alphabetical order as follows:

Priority 1: Madagascar – Strengthening Emergency Disaster Preparedness in the Great South

DG ECHO will continue reinforcing the early warning systems and preparedness capacities for an early/anticipated response to drought including risk for El Niño, locust invasion etc in the Great South.

Priority 2: Mozambique – Anticipatory Action and Cash Readiness

Focus will be on strengthening national preparedness capacities building on previous actions/investments, development of a national multi-hazard strategy for Anticipatory Action proposing multi-actor/sectoral response options. Cash readiness to allow for rapid and early/anticipated cash responses is a key element, with potential linkages to Shock Responsive Social Protection and Safety Nets as well as analysis of current blockages and advocacy to relevant stakeholders.

Priority 3: Regional urban preparedness

Building on DG ECHO funded regional urban resilience project implemented by WFP (Fostering Community Resilience in Southern Africa through Preparedness Activities), focusing on Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, priority 3 will include i)

support to the understanding of the urban environment and dynamics including urban specific vulnerabilities and (ii) (once risks and possible triggers are refined), investment into urban emergency cash response preparedness and readiness, including for urban anticipatory action approaches and where relevant along a SRSP approach. The humanitarian community needs to integrate the learnings generated regarding specific urban shocks and vulnerability. The priority now will be to translate those achievements and learnings into country and regional SADC guidance. Disaster preparedness/contingency plans should integrate context-specific environmental degradation aspects, especially the ones that directly aggravate disaster risk aspects (deforestation, waste accumulation). This is both to reduce risks and prepare for a more environmentally-sustainable response. Similarly, cities can be better prepared to address a wide range of shocks and then play a key role in enhancing access to essential services for the most vulnerable households.

5.1.2 Programmatic Partnerships

In the logic of multi-annual strategic humanitarian projects, DG ECHO also supports programmatic partnerships and would consider such an approach within the SAIO HIP if partner organisations – NGOs with a DG ECHO programmatic partnership certificate, UN agencies and the Red Cross/Crescent family, and Member States’ Specialised Agencies – demonstrate the strategic and/or innovative character of the action and the added value being achieved through such a longer-term partnership, in particular in terms of efficiency and effectiveness gains as described in the Guidance to Partners - DG ECHO Programmatic Partnerships 2024. A programmatic partnership can be implemented through multi-year funding (initial funding allocation for 24 months or more) or through a staged approach where funding is allocated annually. From DG ECHO’s perspective, the urban preparedness constitutes a relevant opportunity for programmatic partnerships in the region. Such a partnership could gather key stakeholders in managing and responding to urban shocks and build on past experience integrating notably learnings generated in terms of specific urban shocks, vulnerability and essential needs. The added value of a longer-term approach will have to be demonstrated by the partners.

5.1.3 Multi-Year Funding

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

5.2. Other DG ECHO interventions

The Emergency Toolbox HIP may be drawn upon for the prevention of, and response to, outbreaks of Epidemics. Under the Emergency Toolbox HIP, the Small-Scale Response, Acute Large Emergency Response Tool (ALERT) and Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) instruments may also provide funding options.

Activities under this HIP might be complemented by the activation of the European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC). The EHRC is a DG ECHO led global initiative, aiming at supporting humanitarian partners for the delivery of humanitarian assistance with a gap-filling approach. Under the EHRC, the Commission has at its disposal several tools that

can be activated in case of sudden onset disasters, e.g., a series of Common Logistics Services (including air operations, warehousing services, last-mile ground transportation, etc.), a stockpile of emergency items, and deployment of humanitarian expertise.

