

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP) SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

AMOUNT: EUR 25 400 000

The present Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) was prepared on the basis of financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2016/01000 (Worldwide Decision) and the related General Guidelines for Operational Priorities on Humanitarian Aid (Operational Priorities). The purpose of the HIP and its annex is to serve as a communication tool for ECHO's partners and to assist 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 PREVIOUS VERSION OF THE HIP

El Niño has caused severe drought and saltwater intrusion in Vietnam affecting 39 out of the country's 63 provinces. The scale and impact of the drought is the worst the country has experienced in 90 years. An estimated 2 million people are without access to safe drinking water and 1 million people are in urgent need of food assistance due to the huge impact of the drought and saltwater intrusion on the agricultural sector. Although the Government had taken preparedness measures, and has already allocated some USD 45 million to the response, the scale of the drought has become much worse than anticipated and surpasses local capacity to respond. The Government has appealed for international assistance on 15 March 2016. On 26 April the UN launched an Emergency Response plan for a total of USD 48.5 million (16 % funded).

ECHO's own assessment and partners' assessments indicate that the priority needs are food assistance (including agriculture livelihoods, to speed up food production and reduce dependency on assistance), water, sanitation and hygiene. Health care and malnutrition treatment might also be considered due to the prolonged food and water shortages and deteriorating health conditions. Disaster risk reduction should be mainstreamed in all sectors of intervention. To address the needs of the most vulnerable people affected by the drought and saltwater intrusion, an amount of EUR 2 000 000 has been added to this HIP.

Changes as per 10/05/2016

Drought conditions, caused by the El Niño system, started developing in Papua New Guinea (PNG) by mid-2015. In the most affected areas the last crop of the traditional staple food has been lost and the next crop will, at best, be available only in June-July (August in higher altitude areas). Six districts have been classified "with a severe food security impact"; 48 other districts have been classified "with high food insecurity impact". WFP has found that 90% of the population in the most affected 6 districts is adopting negative coping strategies to survive and an increased mortality rate has been observed. Local capacity to respond to the crisis is very limited. To address the needs of the most vulnerable people in the most affected 6 districts an amount of EUR 2 000 000 has been added to this HIP. The response will focus on the provision of food assistance.

Changes as per 08/03/2016

a) Fiji - Tropical Cyclone Winston:

Tropical Cyclone Winston made landfall in Fiji on 20 February, causing loss of lives and significant damage to shelter, agriculture and infrastructure across its path. The Fiji Government estimates that close to 350 000 people living in the cyclone's path were affected; 42 people have been confirmed dead and close to 40 000 people remain in evacuation centres.

ECHO's and partners' assessments indicate that multi-sector emergency humanitarian aid is needed for the most vulnerable and most affected families, with emphasis on food assistance (including support to re-launch agriculture activities), WASH and shelter. To address the needs of the most vulnerable people affected by Cyclone Winston in Fiji, EUR 1 000 000 has been added to this HIP. The response will focus on the most vulnerable people who have lost their shelter and source of income due to the extensive damage to agriculture.

b) Transfer of the EUR 1 500 000 allocation foreseen under the 2015 HIP for the conflict in Mindanao (the Philippines):

The EUR 1 500 000 allocation foreseen under the 2015 HIP for the conflict in Mindanao, the Philippines, has been transferred to this HIP. Fighting between the army and non-state armed groups¹ has displaced over 495 000 people since 2012. The 2013 MNLF siege in Zamboanga displaced more than 118 800 people, the 2015 offensive against BIFF in Maguindanao displaced more than 132 000 and persisting fighting entails continuous displacement in different parts of Mindanao. Livelihoods have been destroyed as a result of conflict and displacement, in particular fishing for the indigenous Badjaos in Zamboanga and the farms and livestock in Maguindanao. While it is hoped that the peace process and the Bangsamoro Basic Law may bring sustained peace in the long term, for the moment the conflict remains active. Its humanitarian consequences have received virtually no international attention, making Mindanao a much forgotten crisis. The Government's response to conflict-induced displacements has been much lower than to natural disaster-induced displacements².

Because the humanitarian crisis in Mindanao is considered a forgotten crisis, ECHO will explore opportunities for advocacy, to increase the visibility of the crisis and attract international attention to the humanitarian needs it generates. ECHO partners are encouraged to contribute to this initiative, when relevant and appropriate. ECHO's own assessment and partners' assessments indicate that the priority needs are food and livelihood support, protection, emergency shelter and basic services for water, sanitation, health and education.

Changes as per 28/01/2016

¹ Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF); Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF); Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

² Statement of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Chaloka Beyani, on the conclusion of his official visit to the Philippines 21-23 July 2015.

Typhoon Melor made five landfalls across the Philippines between 14 and 19 December 2015, causing much destruction by strong winds and flooding, especially in Luzon. More than 3.7 million people were affected and up to 280 000 houses damaged, of which close to 100 000 were totally destroyed. The Philippines had been hit by other disasters in the last quarter of 2015, such as Typhoon Koppu in October and Tropical Depression Twenty Three in December, overwhelming the response capacities of the national and local governments. Some communities were affected by Typhoons Koppu and Melor within 2 months, the cumulative effects of which severely undermined their capacity to recover. The President declared a State of National Calamity on 18 December 2015. In spite of the response efforts by the local and national government, serious humanitarian needs remain unaddressed.

ECHO's own assessment and partners' assessments indicate that the priority needs are shelter and food assistance (including agriculture livelihoods, to speed up food production and reduce dependency on assistance). Health care and WASH also appear as required. To address the needs of the most vulnerable people affected by these storms, an amount of EUR 1 500 000 has been added to this HIP. The response will focus on the most vulnerable people (landless farm workers and small scale farmers) who have lost their source of income due to the extensive damage to agriculture.

1. CONTEXT

This HIP covers the response to man-made disasters and natural, as well as disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and resilience activities in South East Asia and the Pacific. In terms of response, this HIP focuses largely on Myanmar and Thailand, with the potential for interventions in new disasters also in Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR³, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Vanuatu and Vietnam. These countries have been included because of their high exposure and vulnerability to disasters (natural and/or man-made). As regards Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and resilience, the focus will be on specific actions in Cambodia, DPRK, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Vietnam, as well as regional initiatives in South East Asia. DRR and preparedness will also be integrated into humanitarian assistance, as appropriate in each situation.

Man-made disasters

Myanmar - population is estimated at circa 50.2 million people⁴, of which 40% are ethnic minorities. The country ranks 150 out of 187 in the 2014 UNDP⁵ Human Development Index and ECHO's Integrated Analysis Framework for 2015-2016 identifies high and moderate humanitarian needs in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states. Despite significant political and economic advances, and the fact that the long negotiations on a nationwide cease fire agreement have been progressing, humanitarian needs have increased following the June 2012 inter-communal violence in Rakhine State, where tensions persist, and the continued fighting in Kachin and northern Shan States (since 2011) and in the Kokang self-

³ People's Democratic Republic

⁴ Ministry of Information and Population - Government of the Union of Myanmar (GOUM),

<http://www.dop.gov.mm/moip/index.php?route=census/state&path=21>

⁵ United Nations Development Programme

administered region (since February 2015). Myanmar has consistently been on the ECHO Forgotten Crises Assessment Index since 2004.

Between IDP⁶s and stateless persons⁷, almost 1.2 million people are considered to be of concern for UNHCR⁸. In Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan States a total of 255 000 IDPs live in camps or with host families. In Kokang, the number of displaced people is estimated at 70 000, including some 56 000 that have crossed the border into China⁹.

Large scale maritime migration from Rakhine State to other countries in the region are an additional concern: the UNHCR estimates that 25 000 people (mostly Rohingya and Bangladeshi) departed from the Bay of Bengal between January and March 2015, twice as much as in the same period in 2013 and 2014. The so called "*boat people*" crisis in the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea erupted in May 2015, after police raided smuggling networks and clandestine camps in Thailand and Malaysia, disrupting the human trafficking routes. An estimated 6 000 people (mostly Rohingya and Bangladeshi) were left stranded at sea by the smugglers, before finally being allowed to disembark in Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia, or back in Myanmar and Bangladesh. It is estimated that at least 250 000 Rohingya are living in Bangladesh, of which only 32 000 are recognised as refugees and live in official camps; the others live precariously in makeshift camps or within local communities.

Thailand - still hosts 110 000 Myanmar refugees, living in nine camps and dependent on international aid. Durable solutions are needed after 30 years of displacement, but their organized return on a voluntary basis, in line with international standards, is not yet on the horizon. This could change when a nationwide cease fire agreement is signed, allowing for a durable peace, including in Southeastern Myanmar, and enabling development to occur, creating the conditions to receive a large influx of returnees.

Natural disasters

The region is one of the most disaster-prone in the world, in terms of scale, recurrence and severity of disasters. While cyclones/typhoons and floods are the most frequent, earthquakes, droughts, cold waves, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis and epidemics also occur. Large-scale natural disasters of significant humanitarian impact have been frequent in the region in recent years (i.e. the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004, Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and China earthquake in 2008, Japan earthquake and tsunami in 2011, Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013 and the floods and Cyclone Komen in Myanmar in 2015) and this has contributed to trigger a growing interest and investment in disaster risk reduction in the region. Regarding climate change, weather patterns are worrying, with increasingly erratic meteorological cycles and higher impact from hydro-meteorological events. In the Pacific, in spite of the region's high exposure to natural hazards, their overall impact is less, given the low population numbers (9.2 million inhabitants).

The El Niño phenomenon is now active and is expected to hit Asia and the Pacific in 2016. It usually affects rainfall levels, to varying degrees from one cycle to the next. At this point in time, droughts across Asia and the Pacific are the most expected consequence.

⁶ Internally displaced persons

⁷ UNHCR Global Trends 2014, June 2015.

⁸ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

⁹ UN OCHA, based on data provided by the GOUM in June 2015

Vulnerability profiles are changing, with increased urban migration, coastal population density, erosion of traditional coping mechanisms and increased risks of pandemics.

Disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and resilience

Given the exposure of this region to a large number of disasters¹⁰, almost all Southeast Asian and Pacific countries are considering actions to improve disaster management and preparedness, and increase resilience. This includes adopting or reinforcing legal frameworks and creating central disaster management bodies. However, at local level, the implementation of the national disaster laws in different countries is uneven. Often, the most vulnerable populations are much less prepared to cope with disasters.

Regarding regional trends in South East Asia, ASEAN¹¹ was the first regional body to adopt a legally binding document, the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER, entered into force on 24/12/2009). The first plan to implement AADMER will be completed by the end of 2015. A new plan of action will cover 2016-2020 and be based on ASEAN priorities and the recently adopted Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

1) Affected people/ potential beneficiaries:

Myanmar - in Rakhine State, the protracted and acute humanitarian consequences of what is fundamentally a human rights crisis continue to worsen, since inter-communal violence erupted in 2012. Despite some IDP returns in 2015, the majority remains displaced and 144 664 people¹², still living in squalid camps or recently returned to their place of origin, depend on humanitarian assistance. Their dependence on humanitarian aid is extremely high due to restrictions on movement and lack of access to livelihoods, basic services and human rights and particularly so in northern Rakhine, which was also severely affected by the impact of floods and cyclone Komen in July 2015.

Since June 2011, the conflict between the Myanmar Armed Forces and the Kachin Independence Army has left more than 92 000 people displaced across Kachin and northern Shan States. Most IDPs are living in camps, or camp-like settings, dispersed across the area, while others have found shelter in host communities, mainly in urban areas. 85% of the camps are located in government controlled areas (up from 75% in 2013), with an estimated 83 375 IDPs in 132 sites (up from 69 941 IDPs in 2013)¹³. Affected population and displaced people living in host communities remain difficult to assess, in particular in non-government controlled areas, as access is severely restricted.

In the Kokang Special Administrative Region, conflict broke out in February 2015 between the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA, with reported involvement of other Ethnic Armed Groups) and the Myanmar Armed Forces. Kokang had a pre-conflict population of 126 000; it is estimated that about 70 000 of them remain displaced (56 000 of

¹⁰ Between 2004 and 2013, 43% of the reported natural disasters in the world occurred in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2014, 48% of disasters occurred in Asia. Over 85% of those killed and 86% those affected globally were also in Asia (source: EM-DAT, CRED, University of Louvain).

¹¹ Association of Southeast Asian Nations

¹² Source: CCCM Cluster June 2015

¹³ Source: CCCM June 2015

which in China). Access is challenging and it is expected that humanitarian needs will be better defined once the UN is able to conduct the first inter-agency assessment.

Heavy monsoon rains, exacerbated by cyclone Komen in July 2015, flooded large parts of the country and in particular Chin, Magway, Sagaing, Irrawaddy and Rakhine States, affecting some 20 million people, displacing over 1.6 million and aggravating conflict-induced needs. The impact on the national and local economy and on food security is expected to be significant over most of 2016.

IDPs and refugees - UNHCR's operations have, since 2014, been re-oriented towards supporting durable solutions for IDPs and preparedness for the voluntary repatriation of refugees. However, regular skirmishes have occurred through 2015 leading to additional forced population displacements, albeit in a limited scale. ECHO and its partners monitor the situation in case humanitarian needs deserve emergency intervention beyond local capacities.

Overall, ECHO aims to assist 1 400 000 people in Myanmar in 2016.

Thailand - despite a large scale third-country resettlement operation since 2005 (still ongoing; 102 000 people resettled as of 30 June 2015), 110 000 refugees from Myanmar are still living in nine temporary settlements along the border. Since 2011 there has been a steady decrease in camp population. As one of the longest-lasting refugee caseloads in the world, durable solutions are being sought through organized voluntary repatriation, integration in Thailand and resettlement in third countries. Given other donors' involvement, ECHO aims at targeting approximately 85 000 people.

2) Description of the most acute humanitarian needs.

Myanmar

Rakhine State - the most acute needs are: protection for all gender and age groups, shelter, health care including psychosocial support, food assistance and nutrition, non-food items, water and sanitation, livelihood support, camp management and coordination. In northern Rakhine, child malnutrition levels exceed emergency thresholds (under-5 acute malnutrition is 20-25%) and are compounded by lack of access to health care. Both in northern Rakhine and in IDP camps further South, lack of access to basic health care and to referrals is a direct threat for the lives of pregnant women, infants and chronically ill patients. Early recovery interventions and quick impact initiatives are needed to defuse ethnic tensions, promote dialogue and improve perception and access of international assistance. Projects promoting peaceful co-existence and inter-community dialogue are needed and the restoration of economic dynamics involving participation of both communities would benefit both groups.

Kachin and Shan States - unaddressed acute needs exist with regards to protection, food, shelter, non-food items, health care, camp management and livelihood support, notably in the areas outside government control. Needs of IDPs not in camps and host families must also be considered. Due to the presence of numerous anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance, mine awareness is required.

Other humanitarian needs - efficient coordination and promotion of the Rights Upfront Initiative¹⁴ are needed in view of the restricted humanitarian space and other challenges. Enhanced coordination between humanitarian and development systems is also a must.

Thailand

The main humanitarian needs of the refugees from Myanmar relate to health, food assistance, shelter, water supply and sanitation.

3. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

1) National / local response and involvement

Myanmar - the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is the lead Ministry in charge of providing relief assistance to affected communities, while the Ministry of Border Affairs is de facto in charge of regulating assistance in border areas. In Rakhine State, some IDP returns and resettlements (2 000 households up to August 2015) have been facilitated by the government and there are plans for the return/resettlement of an additional 6 000 households in 2015-2016. The Commission will continue to advocate for the respect of international norms regarding returns and resettlements. In Kachin and Shan States, there are no solid conditions for return.

Thailand - the government is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention. The Ministry of Interior controls the day-to-day running of the camps, in collaboration with refugee and camp committees. Refugees are not allowed to move freely outside the camps. Humanitarian aid to the nine refugee camps is provided by international donors.

2) International Humanitarian Response

Myanmar - the UN Strategic Response Plan (SRP) 2015 appealed for USD 190 million to respond to the humanitarian needs. It focuses on Rakhine and Kachin States, where funding is required to assist 536 000 people (416 000 in Rakhine and 120 000 in Kachin and northern Shan States). By 31/07/2015 the SRP was only 37% funded¹⁵ (USD 69 million, of which 20% from ECHO), although USD 37 million have also been donated outside the SRP. A UN SRP can also be expected for 2016.

Thailand – yearly international funding to assist the refugees is close to EUR 50 million¹⁶. There is neither a UN appeal, nor a UN Strategic Response Plan for refugees in Thailand.

3) Constraints and ECHO response capacity

Myanmar - access constraints are a recurrent matter of concern. Cumbersome and lengthy procedures to obtain visas, travel authorisations and Memoranda of Understanding lead to

¹⁴ The Human Rights up Front (HRuF) initiative was launched by the UN Secretary-General in late 2013. Its purpose is to ensure the UN system takes early and effective action, as mandated by the Charter and UN resolutions, to prevent or respond to large-scale violations of human rights or international humanitarian law.

¹⁵ Source: <http://www.unocha.org/myanmar>

¹⁶ Figure based on ECHO estimations. Up to 12/08/2015, OCHA FTS reports USD 27.5 million as total international humanitarian assistance to Thailand.

delays in assessments, delivery and monitoring of humanitarian aid. Security concerns and hostility by some groups (in particular in Rakhine State) hinder effective implementation. In Kachin, access for international humanitarian staff to non-government controlled areas remains insufficient. In spite of these challenges, most projects can be monitored by ECHO. ECHO remains committed to supporting coordination mechanisms, as well as to support systemic linkage between humanitarian and development actions, in order to contribute to resilience building efforts.

Thailand - there are no major constraints in access to refugee populations. The main challenge relates to finding durable solutions after 30 years of refugee encampment. A definitive solution can only be found at political level.

4) Envisaged ECHO response and expected results of humanitarian aid interventions

During the implementation of this HIP, special attention will be given to relevant aspects related to migration and displacement, advocacy, international humanitarian law and humanitarian access.

In all countries under this HIP, ECHO will systematically identify and support resilience opportunities that improve coping capacities and livelihoods over the longer term, including mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in humanitarian aid projects, and collaboration with DEVCO to create synergies between EU-funded humanitarian aid and development projects, promoting the LRRD¹⁷ approach.

Effective coordination is essential. ECHO supports the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Transformative Agenda (ITA) and encourages partners to demonstrate their engagement in implementing its objectives, to take part in coordination mechanisms (e.g. Humanitarian Country Team/Clusters) and to allocate resources to foster the ITA roll-out.

ECHO will provide further support to meet the mounting needs of children in conflict affected contexts that are out of school or risk education disruption. Within this HIP project addressing education and child protection will be funded. ECHO will favour education in emergency projects in areas where the % of out-of-school children is particularly high, there are grave child protection concerns and where other sources of funding available are limited. Complementarity and synergies with other EU services and funding instruments will be sought. In addition, complementarity and synergies with funding provided by the Global Partnership for Education is encouraged.

Partners will be expected to ensure full compliance with visibility requirements in accordance with the applicable contractual arrangement as well as with specific visibility requirements agreed-upon in the Single Form, forming an integral part of individual agreements. In particular, this includes prominent display of the EU humanitarian aid visual identity on EU funded project sites, relief items and equipment and the acknowledgement of the funding role of and the partnership with the EU/ECHO through activities such as media outreach and digital communication. Further explanation of visibility requirements can be consulted on the dedicated visibility site: <http://www.echo-visibility.eu/>.

¹⁷ Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development

In 2016, ECHO envisages a total of EUR 18.9 million for the region, as follows:

Myanmar

ECHO's country strategy aims to address acute humanitarian needs and improve the resilience of the most vulnerable people affected by violence, conflict or natural disasters. Protection of civilians, whether victims of conflict or violence, discrimination or human rights violations, will be a top priority - a protection-sensitive approach is essential in all actions. Integrating vulnerabilities and conflict sensitivity into project design and targeting of assistance is crucial to mitigate individuals' risks and the risk of further enticing animosity between different groups (do-no-harm principle). This must be based on a proper analysis and mapping of threats to different gender, age and ethnic groups, by location and type of displacement. ECHO will continue to advocate for the application and respect of humanitarian principles and improved access to all vulnerable civilians with acute humanitarian needs. ECHO supports timely emergency response, hence stock replenishment can be considered. The following list is not exhaustive and may be adapted according to needs:

- *Northern Rakhine State*: Protection, shelter, food assistance, livelihood support, nutrition, psychosocial support, health services, non-food items and inter-community tension mitigation and prevention.
- *Rakhine State areas affected by communal violence and natural disasters*: protection, shelter, food assistance, nutrition, livelihood support (including cooking fuel), health care, water and sanitation, psychosocial support, non-food items, camp management, inter-community tension mitigation and prevention. Early recovery activities can be considered in the framework of the Humanitarian Country Team conflict mitigation strategy and the ongoing returns.
- *Kachin and Shan States conflict-affected areas*: protection, climate-adapted shelter materials, camp/settlement management, non-food items, water and sanitation in camps and settlements, food assistance, livelihood support, health services, and mine awareness.
- *Eastern border areas*: in case of organized return from Thailand, or increased internal forced displacement, ECHO support may be considered.
- *Cross-cutting issues highly recommended for inclusion*: centrality of protection, mainstreaming disaster preparedness and risk reduction, specific needs of different gender and age groups.

The humanitarian needs in Myanmar stem, to a large extent, from human rights crises. Therefore, in addition to funding, ECHO will also explore opportunities for advocacy, both within the country and through partners in the region, in view of addressing the root causes of the crises. ECHO partners are encouraged to contribute to this initiative, when relevant and appropriate. ECHO funding for Myanmar will amount to EUR 11.4 million.

Thailand

ECHO assistance to the displaced population in the camps will focus on health needs, given the number of donors involved in other sectors (food aid, shelter); it will amount to a maximum of EUR 1.3 million.

Natural disasters

All the countries mentioned under section 1 are disaster prone. DRR, preparedness and contingency planning should be appropriately factored into all humanitarian assistance.

Should new natural disasters occur in the region, entailing a high humanitarian impact, ECHO could adapt this HIP and increase its budget to provide humanitarian assistance to the victims, provided that the outstanding needs surpass the local capacity to respond. For the Pacific, after due consideration of the above criteria, a potential ECHO response to natural disasters would be considered as follows:

- For an affected population between 10 000 and 100 000 people, potential use of the instruments in the 2016 Emergency Toolbox HIP.
- For an affected population above 100 000 people, a potential increase of the total amount of this HIP.

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience

In March 2015, the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) took place in Sendai. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 defines 7 global targets and 4 priority areas, through up to 91 types of actions. The Commission intends to contribute to its dissemination and implementation through this HIP. Priority will be given to: a) regional actions, b) consolidation of achievements made during previous DIPECHO programmes, and c) urban DRR and resilience. Thus, this HIP will support specific DRR/Resilience actions as follows:

- Regional actions covering ASEAN countries.
- Country-specific or multi-country benefitting: Cambodia, DPRK, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam.

For further guidance on ECHO priorities, see technical annex (section 3.2.2.2) with detailed operational recommendations on DRR and resilience. In-line with ECHO's commitment to promoting resilience, further attention is to be given to integrating a risk reduction approach in humanitarian assistance operations from the initial response to natural disasters. ECHO funding for DRR and resilience actions in Southeast Asia will amount to EUR 6.2 million.

4. LRRD, COORDINATION AND TRANSITION

1) Other ECHO interventions

Small scale humanitarian actions in response to new crises can be funded by the Emergency Toolbox instruments (Epidemics, Small-Scale Response, and contribution to the DREF¹⁸), in complement to this HIP, and education activities may be funded under the Children of Peace HIP.

2) Other services/donors availability (such as for LRRD and transition)

¹⁸ The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Total humanitarian funding for Myanmar in 2015 was USD\$ 125.9 million¹⁹, the main three donors being USA, Japan and the European Commission. The Nippon Foundation is currently one of the most active donors in conflict affected or stabilized areas.

In all countries of the region, ECHO constantly seeks complementarity with other donors and coordinates with other European Commission services to foster the transition from humanitarian to development assistance.

The DRR and resilience strategy mentioned above will seek complementarity with resilience priorities funded by other EU instruments and EU Member States' programmes in the region, as well as by other donors (e.g. USAID²⁰, World Bank, Asian Development Bank).

3) *Other concomitant EU interventions (e.g. DCI, IcSP)*

Myanmar - The European Union has allocated EUR 688 million under its bilateral geographic programme under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) over the period 2014-2020, to reinforce its support to the country's multiple transitions. The funds target four focal areas: 1) Rural development including agriculture, food and nutrition security; 2) Education; 3) Governance / Rule of Law / State capacity building; and 4) Peacebuilding support. In addition, Myanmar will continue to receive support under other EU thematic and regional instruments and programmes, covering a wide range of issues, including democracy and human rights, civil society, environment and climate change, human development, sustainable energy as well as trade.

The EU has adopted a comprehensive approach to supporting the peace process, providing financial assistance and expertise for both the government and the political leadership representing ethnic groups, as well as for a raft of activities implemented through NGOs in ethnic states. Crucially, the EU provides substantial support to community-based organisations in conflict affected areas aimed at protecting human rights, improving livelihoods and fostering reconciliation. The EU continues to provide financial support and expertise to the Myanmar Peace Centre (MPC) and is currently designing a Joint Peace Fund, together with other interested donors, aimed at supporting the forthcoming stages of the peace process, such as the envisaged joint ceasefire monitoring mechanism, the National Political Dialogue and research needs assessments, and assistance for recovery and development in former conflict affected areas.

Thailand - ECHO is coordinating with the DCI's AUP²¹ co-funded projects, to ensure complementary support to the population living in the camps.

4) *Exit scenarios. If none, say why.*

Exit from Myanmar is not likely in the near future: although ceasefire negotiations with several ethnic groups have been pursued in the past three years, the nationwide ceasefire agreement remains elusive, and political solutions to address ethnic minority issues and interfaith dialogue remain significant challenges. This hampers any future organized return of refugees from Thailand. In the challenging humanitarian contexts in Rakhine, northern

¹⁹ OCHA FTS, 12 August 2015.

²⁰ The United States Agency for International Development

²¹ Aid to Uprooted People

Shan and Kachin States, efforts to reinforce resilience of vulnerable communities will be maintained, for instance through the promotion of DRR, conflict sensitive livelihood schemes and linkages with development projects. ECHO has, over the past years, been gradually reducing its funding to the refugee camps in Thailand. This trend will be pursued, as ECHO will in 2016 be focusing only on the health sector.

In 2016 ECHO celebrates twenty years of DIPECHO and its commitment to people-centered approaches to disaster risk management. An exit strategy from DIPECHO is on-going. A phase out from Indonesia and Timor-Leste was completed in recent years. A multi-country strategy is prioritized for Vietnam and the Philippines, with greater focus on mainstreamed DRR. The final consolidation of the programme is on-going in Cambodia and Lao PDR. Myanmar has only recently become a priority DRR country and activities are expected to continue over the coming years. This reflects the shift in Southeast Asia from a traditional DIPECHO model (i.e. largely community-based disaster preparedness, awareness raising and advocacy) to a new integrated operational approach to DRR and resilience.