HEADING 6: Neighbourhood and the World

Humanitarian Aid (HUMA)

Lead DG: ECHO

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

The scale, frequency and duration of crises that demand international humanitarian response is increasing, aggravated by long-term trends such as climate change, economic shocks, population growth, rapid and unsustainable urbanisation, resource scarcities as well as increasingly protracted armed conflicts. These are, and will continue to be, the main drivers of humanitarian crises, which in turn generate growing humanitarian needs globally. In 2020-2021, the situation was further exacerbated globally by the COVID-19 pandemic and in a number of crises by new or escalated conflicts (Nagorno Karabakh, Tigray
and Afghanistan). The Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 published in December 2021 announced funding requirements of USD 41 billion to assist 183 million of the 274 million people in need in 63 countries. This represents 1 in 29 people worldwide - a significant increase from 1 in 33 in 2020 and 1 in 45 at the launch of the Global Humanitarian Overview 2019, which were already the highest figures in decades. However, funding is not increasing at the same speed as humanitarian needs. In 2021, global humanitarian needs were almost USD 38 billion, with a funding gap of USD 19 billion\(^1\). This overall gap between available resources and humanitarian needs is expected to continue to grow. Against this background, there will be an ever greater need for front-line life-saving humanitarian assistance. Given the protracted nature of several crises, a nexus approach, with enhanced cooperation between humanitarian and development assistance is necessary. Where applicable, the peace element of the triple nexus remains paramount.

Actual delivery of aid is becoming more difficult and dangerous in view of the shrinking humanitarian space and often deliberate attacks against humanitarian and health care workers as well as against civilian infrastructure, in blatant violation of international humanitarian law.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The EU humanitarian aid programme provides emergency, life-saving assistance to people, particularly the most vulnerable, hit by human-induced or natural disasters. Humanitarian aid is a key pillar of the EU’s external action. It is also an important element of the EU’s ability to project its values globally.

The EU is a leading player in humanitarian assistance on the international stage, both in terms of its ability to provide rapid and flexible assistance across a wide range of crises, and in virtue of its influence in shaping the global humanitarian policy agenda. Because of the financial weight (EU and its Member States together are among the world’s leading humanitarian donors) and world-wide scope of its humanitarian actions, the EU is also able to encourage other humanitarian donors to implement effective and principled humanitarian aid strategies. Humanitarian aid is often the only EU instrument able to concretely intervene in acute conflict situations.

In a context of insufficient funding to address ever-growing needs, the EU is trying to fill gaps in global humanitarian aid by addressing needs in areas which are difficult to access and by providing a response not only to the biggest and most visible humanitarian crises, but also to forgotten crises (i.e. crises receiving no or insufficient international aid, political and media attention). Moreover, Member States often look to the EU as a donor to provide assistance in crises where they have only limited means to intervene in a national capacity.

Member States also benefit from the EU’s "humanitarian diplomacy", which aims to increase humanitarian space and lead to more effective provision of humanitarian aid. Another key element of EU added value for Member States lies in the strong operational knowledge and technical expertise of the EU's unique network of humanitarian field offices spread over almost 40 countries.

1.3. Specific objectives

Together with the Humanitarian Aid Regulation (1257/96), the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid sets out the specific nature and mandate of humanitarian aid. In line with the Humanitarian Aid Regulation (1257/96), the EU’s humanitarian assistance goes directly to people affected by disaster or

\(^1\) FTS: Appeals and response plans 2021 | Financial Tracking Service (unocha.org)
conflict, irrespective of their race, ethnic group, religion, sex, age, nationality or political affiliation and must not be guided by, or subject to, political considerations. The EU acts on the basis of the international humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. The main objectives are to:

- provide needs-based delivery of EU assistance to save and preserve life, prevent and alleviate human suffering and safeguard the integrity and dignity of populations affected by disasters or human-induced crises, including protracted crises;
- build the resilience and recovery capacity of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities, in complementarity with other EU instruments.

These objectives contribute to the overall objectives, principles and actions of the Union's external action as defined in Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union.

Effective multilateralism and UN-led coordination are central to the EU’s humanitarian action. Promoting compliance with International Humanitarian Law and ensuring the protection of civilians, and of humanitarian and health care workers remains an essential objective.

On 10 March 2021, the European Commission adopted a Communication on the EU’s humanitarian action “New challenges, same principles”, which confirmed the main principles and priorities for the EU’s humanitarian action. The main objectives focus on more effectively addressing growing humanitarian needs as well as on supporting a better enabling environment for the delivery of principled humanitarian aid, including respect of international humanitarian law. At the same time, the Communication emphasises the need to work closely with development and peace building actors to promote long-term solutions.

While maintaining constant efforts in areas such as food, nutrition, water and shelter, a number of objectives have been strengthened in response to the global context. The EU will continue to devote 15% of its initial humanitarian budget to ‘forgotten crises’, and 10% to education in emergencies to promote access for children in crisis settings to safe and quality education. A stronger focus is placed on health as well as climate impacts, with disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures increasingly integrated into the EU’s humanitarian response, and with climate mainstreaming to be enhanced across humanitarian action. Through the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, the EU addresses short-term needs and provides long-term solutions and, in conflicts, contributes to building lasting peace.

A meaningful participation of aid beneficiaries in decisions that affect them is key for the EU. In line with its equality agenda, the EU is committed to meeting the specific needs, rights and risks of groups of beneficiaries including women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities. The continued integration of protection for people caught in crisis situations is key in the EU’s humanitarian aid.

1.4. Public intervention context

The goals, principles and procedures for implementing EU humanitarian aid operations are set in the Humanitarian Aid regulation (1257/96). The EU’s humanitarian aid enjoys strong public support as one of the most visible facets of the EU external action. Under the EU Treaties (article 214 TFEU) both
Member States and the EU have important and distinct roles in humanitarian aid. Coordination of efforts, ensuring complementarity and promoting a nexus approach can increase synergies and impact, in areas such as humanitarian diplomacy, consolidated EU pledges and sharing of analysis or pooling of resources.

1.5. Actions

Humanitarian interventions mainly consist of funding projects carried out by humanitarian organisations, most of the time in complex, risky contexts. The Commission (DG ECHO) does not intervene directly on the ground (with some exceptions, e.g. on transport where the Commission aims to enable work of partners). As a rule, DG ECHO manages the EU’s humanitarian aid financing through individual agreements with partner organisations (NGOs, United Nations agencies, and other international organisations). Direct management is applied for NGOs, and indirect management for UN and International Organisations.

1.6. Delivery mode

The Commission (DG ECHO) implements EU humanitarian aid operations by funding humanitarian projects of around 140 partner organisations, including United Nations agencies, other International Organisations (including the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The Commission has a permanent network of international and local humanitarian field experts working in crisis zones around the globe. The EU has been playing a leading role in establishing new policy approaches (e.g. education in emergencies) and innovative funding modalities (e.g. cash-based assistance).

At the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, the main donors and humanitarian aid organisations agreed on the ‘Grand Bargain’ to adapt working practices to maximise efficiency and impact. They agreed on the need for flexibility on the donor side (enabling partners to deliver a timely and adapted response, while harmonising reporting requirements). Aid organisations on their side renewed a commitment to coordinated needs assessments, accountability to beneficiaries and taxpayers, transparency and visibility of donors’ assistance, making sure that the highest possible proportion of funds reaches people in need. The Grand Bargain also included a strong commitment from donors and aid agencies to channel more resources directly to local responders. In line with these commitments, as also reaffirmed in the March 2021 Communication on Humanitarian Action, the Commission strives to modernise its funding mechanisms while further stepping up EU support for localisation of aid delivery.

The EU is further promoting innovative solutions that deliver more efficient, cost-effective and climate-proof aid. This also includes promoting private sector engagement in delivering services and exploring innovative financing options.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

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2 See High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing: Too important to fail - addressing the humanitarian financing gap, and https://agendaforhumanity.org/initiatives/3861

3 For example, through the European Innovation Council prize for Affordable High-Tech for Humanitarian Aid.
### 1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

#### 1.8.1. Legal basis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legal Basis</th>
<th>Period of application</th>
<th>Reference Amount (EUR million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### 1.8.2. Budget programming table

<table>
<thead>
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<th>(million EUR)</th>
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<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2024</th>
<th>2025</th>
<th>2026</th>
<th>2027</th>
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<td>2 168.1</td>
<td>1 806.1</td>
<td>1 626.9</td>
<td>1 660.7</td>
<td>1 693.6</td>
<td>1 727.5</td>
<td>1 762.4</td>
<td>12 484.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NextGenerationEU**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Decommitments made available again (*)</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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| Contributions from other countries and entities | 9.9 | p.m. | p.m. | p.m. | p.m. | p.m. | 9.9 |
1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The Humanitarian Aid Regulation is not time-limited; it contains no clause linking its legal validity to a specific Multi-Annual Financial Framework, nor does it have a clause specifying the financial means allocated to humanitarian aid under a given MFF. Therefore, the policy and legal framework for the EU’s humanitarian aid can remain unchanged under the 2021-2027 MFF, which is supported by the conclusions of the last comprehensive evaluation on humanitarian aid (2017), where the relevance of the current framework was confirmed.


1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

https://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en

As main interface with the external public, DG ECHO main website provides an overview of the different activities carried out by the DG, as well as funding opportunities. The website also contains all key strategic documents and relevant legislative texts guiding the work of the DG.

https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/

The website provide useful information for DG ECHO’s partners.

2. Where are we in the implemention?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

As regards Commitment Appropriations, the budget amounts adopted in 2021 and requested for 2022 are in line with the financial programming. The payment appropriations are established on the basis of estimated payment needs triggered by old and new commitments. Considering the increasing humanitarian needs, it is foreseen that implementation will follow the same trend as in 2014-20 programme with limited or any difficulties, i.e. 100%.

In 2021, the Commission funded operations of humanitarian organisations in a wide range of crisis-affected countries and regions, such as Afghanistan, Syria, Turkey, Yemen, South Sudan, Venezuela, the Sahel region and Ukraine (pre-aggression). The larger part of the EU humanitarian funding was dedicated to addressing needs arising from protracted crises, including forgotten crises (such as the Burundi refugee crisis, droughts in Madagascar, the Rohingya regional crisis or the Sahrawi Crisis in Algeria), mainly driven by conflict and compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. At the start of 2021, it was estimated...
that more than 235 million people across the world – the highest figure in decades – were in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, and more funding than ever was required to help them. The Commission deployed operations in more than 80 countries, covering 98% of the countries for which the UN had launched an appeal.

For 2022 and following years, the Commission will continue responding to new and protracted crises. This objective will remain very challenging as humanitarian needs will continue the past growing pace, a trend that is already observed in early 2022 with the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. In a context of limited resources, it will be of paramount importance that the increase of humanitarian needs triggered by Russia’s military aggression on Ukraine is followed by adequate budgetary resources in order not to limit the response capacity for protracted and new crises. However, it remains to be seen whether there may be any medium to long term consequences of Russia’s unjustified invasion of Ukraine on other humanitarian crises. This will depend to a large extent from the duration, and severity of the crisis in Ukraine as well as the evolution of the other crises.

3. How is the programme performing?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

Despite difficulties derived from the urgent respond to onset crises and disasters and the high need for relief to populations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission remained a global leader in the provision of humanitarian aid. With over 590 million interventions, the Commission responded to 98% of UN’s humanitarian appeals and allocated an important part of its budget to respond to main and forgotten humanitarian crises. Furthermore, progress was made towards reaching objectives on thematic policies such as education in emergencies, gender mainstreaming, and climate mainstreaming.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

In 2021, the EU continued providing emergency assistance worldwide to people in need, particularly to the most vulnerable hit by human-induced or natural disasters, with the COVID-19 pandemic compounding the needs and in many cases complicating the response. In 2021, the EU and the 27 Member States’ humanitarian aid contributions amounted to more than USD 8.4 billion, representing 33.4% of the global share. As the world’s largest humanitarian aid donor, the EU and its Member States retained a central role in tackling humanitarian challenges worldwide, notably thanks to a close cooperation with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations agencies and other donors. This responded to the overall objectives and principles of the Union’s external action as defined in Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union, including by respecting the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. EU’s humanitarian advocacy at international level also benefitted the humanitarian community worldwide and indirectly people in need of humanitarian assistance, which resulted eventually in a more effective provision of humanitarian aid.

A key element explaining the achievements of EU humanitarian aid lies in the strong operational knowledge and technical expertise of the EU’s unique network of humanitarian field offices spread over 40 third countries. With a budget of EUR 2.4 billion, the EU could fund more than 126 million

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4 Source OCHA FTS, data retrieved on February 2021.
5 Provisional beneficiary estimation calculated through a methodology still to be approved. This result shall be considered as a rough indicative information and does not extrapolate directly from the more than 590 million humanitarian interventions preformed by the Commission in 2021.
interventions, reaching people in need in the most fragile contexts worldwide and providing assistance in 98% of the countries for which the UN launched an appeal. The EU can moreover take advantage of the comprehensive range of humanitarian partners (around 140 partner organisations, including United Nations agencies, the international segment of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, and non-governmental organisations) through which people in need can receive assistance even in the areas of the world most difficult to reach. The EU also continued to play a leading role in the development of ambitious policy approaches; ‘Education in Emergencies’ is to be particularly highlighted in this respect as, since 2019, the EU has dedicated 10% of its humanitarian aid budget to support actions in this field and is continuing to do so. In 2021, the EU investment in education in emergencies amounted to over EUR 146 million and supported more than 2.3 million girls and boys affected by humanitarian crises to have access to safe and quality education at primary and secondary levels.

EU-funded humanitarian actions were fully needs-based as EU humanitarian assistance went directly to people affected by disaster or conflict, irrespective of their origin, ethnic group, religion, sex, age, nationality or political affiliation, and was not guided by, or subject to, political considerations. As a result, the EU remained firm on acting on the sole basis of the international humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

EU-funded humanitarian aid actions made an important contribution to the objectives of (i) providing needs-based delivery of EU assistance to people faced with natural disasters and human induced threats and protracted crises, and (ii) building the capacity and resilience of vulnerable or disaster affected communities. On the first objective, in 2021 approximately 126 million people benefitted from EU intervention worldwide, 68% of the budget was spent in countries ranked ‘very high risk to disaster’ according to INFORM Risk index and more than 30% of the initial budget was spent in forgotten crisis. On the second objective, in 2021, approximately 49 million persons worldwide benefitted from targeted disaster preparedness actions in disaster prone countries. In addition, preparedness and risk reduction measures were mainstreamed into response actions. Around 49% of all EU humanitarian projects funded in 2021 included thus preparedness activities.

Moreover, the EU ensured a rapid response to crises as they developed (e.g. the EU mobilised EUR 164 million from the Emergency Aid Reserve, to help address the immediate needs of those affected by food insecurity in several regions) and to the response to the COVID-19 exacerbating effects on humanitarian needs (e.g. EUR 100 million in humanitarian funding from the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve were mobilised to support COVID-19 vaccination rollout in Africa). EU humanitarian aid was delivered while ensuring the necessary flexibility, adequate expertise, relevance, efficiency and cost-effectiveness. The scale of funding dedicated to humanitarian aid actions allowed the EU to have a meaningful impact on the ground, addressing the needs of approximately 126 million people in 82 countries. The EU alone (i.e. without its Member States) contributed to 11% of global humanitarian funding in 2021 (corresponding to USD 2.9 billion). Positive impacts were also found in regions where funding allocations were more limited, thanks to the selection of projects with high leverage or multiplier effect potential. This was particularly true for ‘forgotten crises’, to which the Commission continues to pay a particular attention in line with its long-standing commitment.

Despite the drop of the proportion of total humanitarian projects including disaster preparedness considerations (from 58% to 49% between 2019 and 2022), due to the sharp increase of projects derived from the pandemic and from onset crisis; the EU continued to support capacity and resilience building of

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6 Provisional beneficiary estimation calculated through a methodology still to be approved. This result shall be considered as a rough indicative information and does not extrapolate directly from the more than 590 million humanitarian interventions performed by the Commission in 2021.

7 Source OCHA FTS, data retrieved on February 2021.
vulnerable or disaster-affected communities in a targeted manner, through dedicated funding to strengthening preparedness capacities for response and anticipatory action. For instance, it signed a multi-year “Programmatic Partnership” with FAO to implement anticipatory actions and reinforce governments’ capacity to do so in five countries in Asia. This initiative builds upon on-going Disaster preparedness Budget Line the Commission is financing in South-East Asia through FAO, which was evaluated in 2021 as having significantly influenced the Association for Southeast Asian Nations’ (ASEAN) policy framework which resulted in several ASEAN Member States to successfully deliver shock responsive COVID-19 assistance within own fiscal space and social protection systems.

Thanks to the EU’s disaster preparedness targeted actions, local communities were able to react fast and efficiently when disasters occurred, thus helping to save many lives and assets in regions exposed to natural hazards, particularly climate related ones. For example, in Bangladesh, beneficiary households were able to save an average of USD 570 in avoided losses to their assets and livelihoods through taking early actions against floods. To complement this and reinforce its contribution to resilience through humanitarian action, the EU also promoted the integration of disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures in regular humanitarian response actions so that communities could be better prepared to respond to aftershocks and to reduce imminent risk to which they were exposed.

In 2021, the EU provided over EUR 2.2 billion in aid to the most vulnerable (including EDF and externally assigned revenues) across more than 82 countries.

The EU’s principled and needs-based approach to humanitarian aid includes addressing ‘forgotten crises’ (crises with little media attention and poor coverage; with a pledge of at least 15% of the budget). The EU was thus present in every significant humanitarian crisis in 2021 with a variety of adapted funding tools. In larger crises, the EU consistently responded to situations where other donors were not present and often played the role of coordinator and catalyst. 79.7% of the contracts were issued within a very short timeframe (11 days).

**Education in Emergencies** remained a flagship policy, 10% of the budget was dedicated to it, and more than 2.3 million boys and girls in the most vulnerable situations benefited from this support. The EU continued to mainstream gender considerations across humanitarian sectors of action, and advanced in the implementation of the approach to gender and gender-based violence in humanitarian crises outlined in the Staff Working Document “Gender: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance”. In addition, the EU took specific measures in order to mainstream the needs of persons with disabilities across all EU-funded humanitarian actions. In this respect, in 2021 the Commission funded some 30 humanitarian aid projects specifically targeting persons with disabilities. This comes on top of some 232 assistance projects that addressed the needs of persons with disabilities, among other vulnerable beneficiaries. As of 2021, the EU has also strengthened disaggregated data requirements on persons with disabilities in the funding proposals of humanitarian actions. In January 2021, the ECA published its Special Report 02/2021: *EU humanitarian aid for education: helps children in need, but should be longer-term and reach more girls.* The Commission is in the process of implementing the actions addressing the recommendations by end-June 2022.

The EU continued to invest in disaster preparedness as an essential means to strengthen national and local response systems in order to reduce humanitarian needs caused by disasters, natural hazards and those

(*) As example: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central America, Chad, Colombia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Sudan, Ukraine

related to other types of risks (biological, industrial, etc.) and threats (violence and conflicts). A total of EUR 75 million financed 25 countries and 5 regional interventions across the globe in 2021.

In the framework of its co-chairmanship with Switzerland of the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) initiative (June 2018 – June 2021), the EU continued in 2021 to promote principled donor behaviour, while taking into account the new challenges and needs emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. access restrictions, vaccines). The overall priorities of the GHD co-chairmanship included: reconciling counter-terrorism measures and principled humanitarian aid, promoting respect for international humanitarian law (IHL), innovative financing, as well as assessing the impact of the UN Development System reform rollout on the international humanitarian response in the field.

Besides being co-convenor of the Grand Bargain’s work stream 5 on coordinated needs assessments, the EU joined the Facilitation Group (FG) of the Grand Bargain, where it has been playing an active role since October 2019. In December 2020 and January 2021, the EU chaired the Facilitation Group, and again in October and November 2021.

Gravely concerned by the continued widespread violations of International Humanitarian Law and the adverse consequences of armed conflicts for civilians and humanitarian action, the EU continued to strongly advocate for compliance with IHL. The Commission has also worked towards further strengthening IHL and the monitoring of violations, in line with the newly adopted Communication on the EU’s humanitarian action. In 2021, the EU organised a high level side event on IHL in the margin of the UN General Assembly Ministerial Week. The EU has also promoted the protection of education from attack and the protection of children in armed conflict, among others as part of a high-level side event, jointly organized with Belgium, in the margin of the 2021 UN General Assembly. The EU has also organised a discussion series on the safety and security of humanitarian and medical personnel in armed conflicts, which produced an Outcome Document with over 40 recommendations.

In 2021, the EU continued guaranteeing fast and safe access to the field; ECHO Flights continued supporting Humanitarian Aid Transport Services. To allow Member States and humanitarian partners to transport humanitarian staff and supplies to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and to maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance, the EU temporarily put in place the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge, offering air transport to and from various destinations worldwide. In 2021 the HAB implemented 21 flights and covered until now 23 hard-to-reach countries to transport humanitarian and medical staff and supplies.

Some concrete examples of EU support in humanitarian crisis are:

- Following the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban in August 2021, the political and institutional context in the country has completely changed, along with the challenges and objectives for the years to come. In 2021, the EU provided EUR 222 million to humanitarian assistance programmes covering the needs of displaced populations, in particular on food security, nutrition, health, wash, mine decontamination to protect humanitarian workers, protection and education, with a specific focus on the specific needs of women and girls. Of the total funding, 26% is allocated to health and nutrition, 23% to food security and livelihoods, 14% to education, 12% to mine action and logistics and 11% winterisation and multi sector support. A minimum of 5 million beneficiaries in extreme need are planned to be reached in the immediate term. As of 12 December 2021, around 280 tons of life-saving medication, COVID-19 and nutritional items have been delivered to Kabul through the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge, in close co-operation with humanitarian partners.

(10) Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iran, Mali, Mauritania, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Republic of Congo, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen + regional approach in the Caribbean, Central America/Mexico, South America, Southern Africa and South-East Asia.
The EU continued to deliver life-saving assistance and support to millions of people affected by the crisis in Syria. The EU allocated EUR 220 million to support the most vulnerable impacted by this crisis (including refugees in Lebanon and Jordan) and continued to deliver life-saving assistance and to support millions of people throughout Syria, focusing on the vital delivery of food, medicine, water, and shelter items. In Turkey, the EU continued providing support to the largest refugee population in the world (close to 4 million, of which 3.6 million Syrians). Under the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey, the EU contracted about EUR 2.4 billion of humanitarian projects. In addition, it has allocated EUR 531.7 million in humanitarian funding for 2020, which allowed us to support the two flagship humanitarian projects Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) and the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education. In early 2021, the Commission also allocated additional EUR 50 million to continue with some of our key protection, health and education projects. In December 2021, the EU budgetary authorities approved a request for additional funding (so called Draft Amending Budget or DAB 5), which will allow the ESSN to continue until early 2023 with an additional allocation of EUR 325 million. This will ensure continuity in the support to over 1.5 million beneficiaries until it is handed over to DG NEAR. The Emergency Social Safety Net (which provides monthly cash payments directly to refugees through a debit card to help meet their basic needs. It supported over 1.5 million refugees by the end of 2021) and the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education which (provides cash transfers to vulnerable families to promote school enrolment and attendance for refugee children). By the end of 2021, it reached nearly 695 000 children.

In response to the complex crisis in the Sahel, in 2021, the Commission covered emergency humanitarian needs in seven countries of the wider Sahel region (Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Mali, Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon). The Commission responded to emergency humanitarian needs of most vulnerable populations in these countries, mobilising EUR 222.7 million to support multisectoral humanitarian interventions to the benefit of the over 10 million forcibly displaced persons across the region. The emergency response in conflict areas included support to rapid reaction mechanisms (a three-month multi sectorial emergency aid package) and to existing national structures to maintain access to basic services. Moreover, EU aid supported humanitarian access to hard-to-reach areas through humanitarian air services, humanitarian civil-military coordination and security management. In addition, as a response to the food and nutrition crisis induced by climate conditions, poverty and insecurity, compounded by the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU provided food during the lean season and nutrition treatment for children suffering from severe acute malnutrition and in need of life-saving treatment.

In response to the Venezuela crisis, the EU allocated a total of EUR 70 million in 2021 to support the affected population in Venezuela and in the wider Latin America region, mainly for the provision of health and nutrition, water and sanitation, protection, education in emergencies, as well as support to host communities. The EU remained the leading donor in the response to the humanitarian crisis inside Venezuela, not only in terms of volume of funding, but also in terms of humanitarian diplomacy, including through the Humanitarian Assistance working group of the ICG for Venezuela.

After more than 7 years of conflict, the security situation in eastern Ukraine remained volatile. Since the July 2020 ceasefire, there were fewer hostilities and civilian casualties. However, in 2021, daily incidents continued to cause damage to housing, water and electricity supply, schools, and health facilities, which left about 3.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, of which one third were older persons. At the end of 2021, the Russian military build-up at the border with Ukraine led to an escalation of tensions and increasing concerns over humanitarian consequences in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. Since the beginning of
these new developments, the EU has been preparing for all scenarios, working together with donors and partners to prepare the humanitarian response to be implemented in 2022. The EU is one of the largest humanitarian donors to the crisis in eastern Ukraine, with an allocation of EUR 28.9 million in 2021. The EU humanitarian funding, delivered through UN agencies, non-governmental organisations and the International Committee of the Red Cross, helped people access healthcare, including better preparation and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding also supports the rehabilitation of damaged houses, schools, and hospitals. It provides affected people with the means to meet their basic needs and access safe water, education in emergencies, and protection services including legal support. In 2021, EU funded humanitarian assistance reached more than 750,000 people in Ukraine’s government-controlled areas and in the non-government-controlled areas.

**Criticalities**

The above should however not hide the fact that delivering principled humanitarian assistance is at times utterly difficult, such as in situations of armed conflict, where warring parties may disregard International Humanitarian Law and interfere with or obstruct the delivery of principled humanitarian assistance in the field. Humanitarian and health care personnel, as well as medical facilities and schools have been exposed to armed attacks. While the EU has repeatedly reaffirmed its firm commitment to upholding international humanitarian law, improved compliance in this area implies political support and other means beyond the remit of humanitarian aid assistance as such. According to the Aid Worker Security Database (AWSD), violence against aid workers in 2020 claimed 484 individual victims, 117 of whom died, making 2020 the worst year on record for the second year in a row. South Sudan, Syria and Democratic Republic of Congo had the highest numbers of attacks.

Tribute should also be paid to the versatility and adaptability of many of the EU humanitarian partners, who may have to face difficult logistical challenges when delivering assistance in hard-to-reach areas, and other types of unexpected developments in the field that may hinder aid delivery. It is particularly in such situations that the in-house expertise available to the Commission, when managing EU humanitarian aid funding and interacting with the humanitarian partners in the field, proves to be invaluable. In close liaison with its partners, this expertise enables the Commission to adjust actions in the field and adapt to evolving circumstances.

While being able to meet acute humanitarian needs in an effective manner, EU humanitarian aid – in particular in protracted crises – needs to be linked to development actors who are best positioned to act to address structural issues. Such situations vindicate the need for strengthening further the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. This would allow humanitarian aid actors to focus on responding to acute emergencies, while development actors would support strengthening of national systems allowing inclusion of persons affected by emergencies into national service delivery. An initiative in this sense is the Global Network against Food Crises, created in 2016, which brings together development and humanitarian actors with the aim to coordinate analysis and interventions, with a focus on food crises.

**Impact of COVID-19**

In 2021, Europe and the world continued to be strongly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The European Union and the Member States, acting together as ‘Team Europe’, have mobilised almost EUR 46 billion so far. Of this, the EU humanitarian response to needs resulting from the pandemic amounted to a total of approximately EUR 656 million. As expected, the direct and indirect consequences of the
COVID-19 pandemic were most acutely felt by populations already affected by humanitarian crises: refugees, internally displaced persons, and people living in conflict zones and/or in areas devastated by climate change.

The EU immediately responded to increase the emergency response and preparedness to the pandemic in particular in countries where healthcare systems are weak or at risk of being rapidly overwhelmed in case of epidemic outbreak.

In addition, to allow Member States and partners to transport humanitarian staff and supplies to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and to maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance hampered by the pandemic, the EU put in place the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge.

In the efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, many governments took measures limiting internal and cross-border movements, unintentionally also impeding humanitarian operations.

All ongoing and planned actions across all sectors were analysed with partners, in order to factor in the COVID-19 situation and needs. Support was provided to COVID-19 vaccination. To this end, funding was provided to the COVAX Humanitarian Buffer, a last resort tool to ensure access by vulnerable populations who could not be included in national vaccine deployment plans. Furthermore, strong support to vaccine rollout in Africa was implemented, through a EUR 100 million package that had been announced by President Von der Leyen.

To allow Member States and humanitarian partners to transport humanitarian staff and supplies to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and to maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance, the EU temporarily put in place the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge, offering air transport to and from various destinations world-wide. The Humanitarian Air Bridge (HAB) continued to operate in 2021 with 21 flights providing essential medical supplies and humanitarian cargo. With three new countries added in 2021, the HAB has now covered a total of 23 countries.

### 3.2. Key achievements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EUR 2.2 billion</th>
<th>82</th>
<th>2.3 million</th>
<th>21</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>of humanitarian aid provided to the most vulnerable in 2021.</td>
<td>Countries received humanitarian aid from the EU in 2021.</td>
<td>girls and boys benefited from the education in emergencies initiative in 2021.</td>
<td>flights were organised by the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge to deliver more than 5 400 tons of medical and humanitarian equipment and to transport medical and humanitarian staff and other passengers in 2021.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

The time scope of the Humanitarian Aid Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96) is not limited to the duration of one Multiannual Financial Framework. Evaluations could thus cover parts of two different MFF cycles. In addition, because of the ‘continuous’ nature of humanitarian operations, it is deemed that evaluation results have a validity for the medium term (3-5 years) unless actions have been substantially modified, which also provides a basis for the Commission (DG ECHO)’s evaluation approach, by which basically all humanitarian interventions are evaluated over a five-year period. The
comprehensive evaluation of European Union Humanitarian Aid (2012-2016) was finalised in 2017. The evaluation considered that EU funded actions were found to be overall cost-effective and positively contributing to saving lives, reducing morbidity and suffering as well as improving dignity of life of populations affected by disasters, and presented some areas of improvement that have been subsequently evaluated in evaluations of concrete actions.

Areas for improvement encompass developing, when appropriate, a more programmatic approach to the partnership between the EU as a donor and its humanitarian partners; increasing the involvement of local implementing partners in the delivery of EU-funded actions; scaling up successful innovative approaches and improved reporting; more systematic coherence and synergies between the EU humanitarian aid and civil protection activities; better communication of the rationale of the EU’s strategic directions; as well as continued emphasis on Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) and defining exit strategies.

As a response to the above findings, the Commission is, among other actions, 1) looking at ways of further facilitating a longer-term approach to the funding of operations where appropriate; 2) putting in place a framework that would allow for a more strategic or more programmatic relationship with key NGO partner organisations; 3) working on the elaboration of guidance on localisation; 4) improving its communication of the underlying rationale for allocations internally and externally; and 5) working to establish a distinct longer-term reflection process on data collection needs, in the context notably of the Commission’s push for building further its evidence-based policy-making capacity.

The following humanitarian aid evaluations were finalised in 2021:

- Evaluation of European Union’s humanitarian assistance in Syria (2016-2018). The evaluation concludes that the Commission has made a unique contribution to strengthening the humanitarian footprint across the country and improving coverage of response in hard-to-reach and besieged areas. The response was in strong alignment with the humanitarian principles, and well-coordinated with other humanitarian actors. The Commission’s assistance has played a significant part in the delivery of food, non-food items, water and shelter to the population in need. Its cash-based interventions have enabled communities to prioritise their own essential needs. Its support has also enabled primary healthcare providers to continue to function and deliver healthcare. Overall, the Commission played a lead role in donor coordination on the Syria response, acting as a bridge between partners and donors, and individual EU member states rely heavily on the Commission’s presence on the ground.

- Evaluation of the European Union’s humanitarian response to the Rohingya refugee crisis in Myanmar and Bangladesh (2017-2019). The evaluation concludes that the Commission has, despite a budget that was not proportionate to the needs, contributed to meeting objectives of preventing and alleviating human suffering, maintaining human dignity and upholding humanitarian principles. This also encompassed a key role in terms of coordination and advocacy. As a large-scale dignified return for the Rohingya is unlikely in the foreseeable future, further development of a joint strategic approach has become even more pressing. Strategic recommendations targeted at the Commission Myanmar and Bangladesh are to 1) develop a multi-year strategy aligned with the Nexus joint response plan, 2) continue innovative approaches at both a country and global level to promote localisation, 3) refine advocacy strategies to promote changes in policy environments and 4) promote consistent attention to cost effectiveness by partners. A recommendation for the Commission is to ensure timely and adequate funding to maintain the Commission’s position as a key facilitator and influencer in the response.

- Evaluation of the EU’s implementation of the DG ECHO Thematic Policy Document “Gender: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance” of July 2013, (2014-2018). The evaluation finds appropriate coherence with relevant policies at EU and global levels, significant added value to the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies, and coordination with Member States. Gender integration has improved in operations. Targeted actions have significantly increased but overlooked some vulnerabilities. Funding of global capacity building by Enhanced Response Capacity was effective. Dialogue with partners
about gender is appreciated but not systematic; dialogue is not always linked to the Gender-Age Marker, whose rating process is still often a ‘box ticking’ process. Implementation is supported by DG ECHO experts but knowledge of e-training opportunities is limited. Connectedness is poor, as gender issues are still not among Nexus priorities. Recommendations include more training on the Marker, adaptation of targeted actions, and advocacy within Nexus.

Evaluations are published on: [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding-evaluations/evaluations_en](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding-evaluations/evaluations_en)

### 4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

**Specific Objective 1: Provide an adequate and effective humanitarian assistance to populations affected by humanitarian crises**

**Indicator 1: Geographical coverage of the EU Humanitarian Aid: Number of countries with EU supported operations as a percentage of countries in need of humanitarian assistance according to UN Humanitarian Appeals.**

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Are we on track: On track

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<td>New indicator, linked to the Strategic Plan 2020-2024</td>
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<td>Justification of the trend</td>
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**Indicator 2: Percentage humanitarian aid funding targeting actions in forgotten crisis**

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Are we on track: On track

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Link to the objective: A Stronger Europe in the World

Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27: New indicator, linked to the Strategic Plan 2020-2024

Other methodological comments: The target for this indicator is to stay above the commitment assumed by the Commission to allocate at least 15% of the budget committed for humanitarian aid to humanitarian crises identified as forgotten crises.

Full metadata available at this address: https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en

Justification of the trend: Milestone achieved, therefore the indicator is on track.

Indicator 3: Percentage of Humanitarian Aid initial budget allocated to Education in Emergencies

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Are we on track: On track

Indicator type: Output
Unit of measurement: Percentage
Cut-Off Date: 31/12/2021
Data source: Initial allocations based on the Draft humanitarian aid budget
Link to the objective: A Stronger Europe in the World
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27: New indicator, linked to the Strategic Plan 2020-2024

Other methodological comments: The target for this indicator is to sustain the level of 10% of humanitarian aid budget allocated to Education in Emergencies according to political commitments assumed by the Commission.

Full metadata available at this address: https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en

Justification of the trend: Milestone achieved, therefore the indicator is on track.

Indicator 4: Number of children reached with EU Education in Emergencies assistance

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Are we on track: On track

Indicator type: Result
Unit of measurement: Number of children (in million)
Cut-Off Date: 31/12/2021
Data source: HOPE database
Link to the objective: A Stronger Europe in the World
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27: New indicator, linked to the Management Plan 2020

Other methodological comments: The target for this indicator is to stay above 1.86 (the reference level which was achieved in 2020).

Full metadata available at this address: https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en

Justification of the trend: Milestone achieved, therefore the indicator is on track.

Indicator 5: Number of humanitarian projects per sector
### Programme Statements

#### DB2023

#### Humanitarian Aid (HUMA)

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## Programme Statements

**Humanitarian Aid (HUMA)**

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**Indicator type**: Output  
**Unit of measurement**: Number of projects per sector  
**Cut-Off Date**: 31/12/2021  
**Data source**: EVA Action - EU Database  
**Link to the objective**: A Stronger Europe in the World  
**Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27**: New indicator, linked to the Management Plan 2020  
**Other methodological comments**: This indicator has no targets or milestones. It only intends to track the repartition of projects by sector rather than reaching a specific threshold for descriptive purposes.


### Indicator 6: Number of interventions of ECHO funded humanitarian aid operations (beneficiaries)

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<th>2024</th>
<th>2025</th>
<th>2026</th>
<th>2027</th>
<th>2028</th>
<th>2029</th>
<th>Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>177</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>177</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are we on track: On track

**Indicator type**: Result  
**Unit of measurement**: Million people  
**Cut-Off Date**: 31/12/2021
Specific Objective 2: Ensure people and communities at risk of disasters are resilient and prepared

Indicator 1: Percentage of humanitarian assistance grants including elements of disaster preparedness, resilience and disaster risk reduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2024</th>
<th>2025</th>
<th>2026</th>
<th>2027</th>
<th>2028</th>
<th>2029</th>
<th>Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Final</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual Progress</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deserves attention**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Indicator type**: Output  
**Unit of measurement**: Percentage  
**Cut-Off Date**: 31/12/2021  
**Data source**: HOPE database  
**Link to the objective**: A Stronger Europe in the World  
**Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27**: New indicator, linked to the Strategic Plan 2020-2024  
**Other methodological comments**: The Commission made a political commitment to mainstream preparedness and disaster resilience overall in EU humanitarian programmes. The aim is to go beyond the baseline and reach 75% by 2024. Intermediate milestones have been set in order to frame progressive progress towards the 2024 target. Target and milestones shall then stabilize at 75% or more after 2024. This indicator counts all projects having Disaster Preparedness (DP) and Disaster Risk Reduction results in their project logical framework.

**Full metadata available at this address**: https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en  
**Justification of the trend**: While the baseline of 58% was set in 2020, it was calculated according to 2019 results. As a consequence of COVID-19, projects to address needs from the pandemic increased importantly in 2020, reducing drastically the proportion between DP and humanitarian response projects if compared to 2019 (the level of this indicator at the closure of 2020 amounts to 46%). Progress in 2021 was positive in comparison to final figures for 2020 despite the general resulting from the pandemic.

5. The programme contribution to horizontal policies
5.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Implementation</th>
<th>2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Share compared to total envelope</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate contribution</td>
<td>831.71</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*) These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any.

5.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

The figure for 2021 (EUR 831.80 million) is the result of the application of a new methodology that allows a more precise analysis of climate spending. For 2021, 40% of EUR 1.846 million and 100% of EUR 56.869 of total payments under the HUMA budget, were marked as contributing to climate mainstreaming.

The Commission is implementing the central tracking at commitment level, to improve the accuracy and reliability of the data on climate action. The tracking is based on EU climate markers methodology, made of three scores (0/40/100).

5.1.3. Key achievements

Building on positive results achieved during the response to cyclones Kenneth and Idai in 2020 in Mozambique, in 2021, DG ECHO continued to support WFP in strengthening national and local government’s capacity in the use of drone and satellite technology both for disaster preparedness, and post-disaster response. Both actions ultimately contribute to saving lives since they allow mapping of at-risk areas and collecting data on the whereabouts and number of potentially affected people in the fastest possible manner - thus allowing to plan needed response in advance or triggering search and rescue operations in the aftermath of an event. This intervention (ongoing) has been coupled with expanding support to flood mapping in order to feed in into existing early warning systems and improve preparedness plans.

5.1.4. Performance

Over the course of the past multi-annual financial framework 2014-2020, DG ECHO has successfully integrated climate action into its activities, primarily in terms of adaptation to climate change - both through the civil protection and humanitarian programmes.

On the humanitarian side, DG ECHO started the implementation of its renewed approach to disaster preparedness and risk informed humanitarian action (developed in 2021), which promotes the integration of climate risk considerations into all funded actions and establishes climate resilience as one priority for the Disaster Preparedness Budget Line (75 million Euros for 2021). Increased emphasis on anticipatory action as part of the renewed disaster preparedness approach is also a direct contribution to being better prepared for climate impacts. For instance, it signed two multi-year and multi-country programmatic partnerships with specific Anticipatory Action (AA) components with Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). This is in line with the priorities of the Communication on the EU’s Humanitarian Action (2021), which confirms a stronger focus on climate impacts and environmental factors - in particular to scaling up anticipatory action as a response to addressing climate shocks. DG ECHO continues tracking progress through tools such as the revised Resilience Marker. In 2021, the guidelines for the use of the Resilience Marker where updated to facilitate partners in the use of the tool as to embed considerations of climate
risks in all projects. In 2021, DG ECHO also identified further possibilities to support the scaling up of AA within existing financing tools. The groundwork started in 2021 will continue in 2022 to more clearly define the feasibility and possible structure of new financing mechanisms.

5.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

5.2.1. Contribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Implementation</th>
<th>2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity contribution</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share compared to total envelope</td>
<td>0.00 %</td>
<td>0.00 %</td>
<td>0.00 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

5.2.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

In line with the ambitious approach to reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid put forward in 2020, DG ECHO has continued with the implementation of such approach and in 2021, it developed minimum environmental requirements for all its funded actions to comply with. The application of these requirements will start in 2022 although 2022 will be a transition year during which partners will start to apply them to the extent feasible. The implementation of the requirements will ultimately contribute to the protection of biodiversity in humanitarian contexts by reducing deforestation, supporting natural regeneration of ecosystems around camps and settlements and generally reducing pressures on the natural environment. This is also reflected in the funding allocation for disaster preparedness - i.e. the Disaster Preparedness Budget Line – where environmental (and climate) resilience is identified as a priority for funding for the next 4 years (2021-2024). In order to better support its partners and staff in this area of work, DG ECHO developed in 2021 two knowledge tools including: i. a Compendium of good practices for a greener humanitarian response; and ii. an online self-led training on Greening Humanitarian aid. Additionally, as part of its commitment to advocate globally for compliance with international humanitarian law, DG ECHO also promotes the respect of the rules on the protection of the environment in armed conflict.

5.2.3. Key Achievements

Building on positive results achieved during the response to cyclones Kenneth and Idai in 2020 in Mozambique, in 2021, the Commission continued to support WFP in strengthening national and local government’s capacity in the use of drone and satellite technology both for disaster preparedness, and post-disaster response. Both actions ultimately contribute to saving lives since they allow mapping of at-risk areas and collecting data on the whereabouts and number of potentially affected people in the fastest possible manner - thus allowing to plan needed response in advance or triggering search and rescue operations in the aftermath of an event. This intervention (ongoing) has been coupled with expanding support to flood mapping in order to feed in into existing early warning systems and improve preparedness plans.

5.2.4. Performance

Over the course of the past multi-annual financial framework 2014-2020, the Commission has successfully integrated climate action into its activities, primarily in terms of adaptation to climate change - both through the civil protection and humanitarian programmes.

On the humanitarian side, the Commission started the implementation of its renewed approach to disaster preparedness and risk informed humanitarian action (developed in 2021), which promotes the integration
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5.3. Contribution to gender equality

5.3.1. Key achievements and performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score 1: 2</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2024</th>
<th>2025</th>
<th>2026</th>
<th>2027</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Score 1: 2</td>
<td>168.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*Consolidated and updated comparable information for the annual expenditures adopted, estimated or programmed for the 2021-2027 programming period (totals by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: gender equality is principal objective, score 1: gender equality is significantly impacted, score 0*: impact on gender equality to be determined ex post, score 0: no significant impact on gender equality.

The Commission is committed to ensuring that EU humanitarian aid takes into account the different needs and capacities of women and men of all ages. The Commission is working on a methodology on Gender expenditure tracking and has provisionally assigned score 1 to the total Humanitarian Aid budget for 2021 (EUR 1.503 billion). This methodology is Commission-wide and differs from other assessment methods used to track humanitarian funding, e.g. the Commission’s humanitarian gender-age marker and the OECD DAC Gender Equality Marker. It is clear that Humanitarian Aid has some impact on gender equality (therefore, scores 0 and 0* could not be assigned), but gender equality is also not the principal objective of the programme (and score 2 could not be assigned).

Considering that humanitarian projects often have multiple objectives rather than one, it is more appropriate to measure gender mainstreaming rather than targeting. The Gender-Age Marker is the tool that assesses to what extent humanitarian actions integrate gender and age considerations. The Gender-Age Marker uses a set of four criteria to assess how strongly humanitarian actions are adapted to and integrate gender and age considerations. The Gender-Age Marker represents a new generation of assessment tools and strengthening the integration of gender and age concerns is an organizational change process for partners that can take time. In the coming years, the EU will continue the targeted training of implementing partners, as well as the dissemination and further development of guidance and toolkits on the gender-age cross-cutting issues. The development of operational best practices will continue to be based on operational experience. Systematic monitoring of operational guidance implementation via feedback loops will be ensured taking into account the results of the assessment of the first three years of implementation.
Several assessment parameters have been developed to ensure quality programming, one of them being the Gender-Age Marker.

In June 2020, the EU published its second assessment report on its Gender-Age Marker, showcasing that for projects starting in 2016 and 2017, 89% of all EU humanitarian aid integrated gender and age considerations 'strongly' or 'to a certain extent'.

Furthermore, the EU continued to operationalise its approach to gender and gender-based violence in humanitarian crises outlined in the Staff Working Document ‘Gender: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance’, supporting prevention and responding to gender-based violence, including through targeted actions and capacity-building of humanitarian actors in this area. An evaluation of the policy along with the Gender-Age Marker and other gender-related activities in the period 2014-2018 was published in June 2021. The evaluation pointed out progress both in terms of mainstreaming, integrated and targeted actions, and in terms of global capacity development.

The EU continues to be an active member of the global initiative Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (having previously led the initiative between June 2017 and December 2018). In January 2021, the EU sent its commitments to the Call to Action Road Map covering the period 2021-2025. The EU will report on these commitments on an annual basis, starting in April 2022.

During 2021, the Commission allocated approximately EUR 33.1 million to prevent and respond to sexual- and gender-based violence. Furthermore, over the same year, it is estimated that the EU allocated approximately EUR 29.7 million to reproductive health from its humanitarian health programming. In the framework of the implementation of the European Union Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025), progress has been made towards the aim of transforming the lives of girls and women through ensuring their physical and psychological integrity, promoting their economic and social rights and strengthening girls' and women's voice and participation. Also to be mentioned that since 2021, the Commission gives clear priority to education in emergencies projects that target at least 50% girls.

5.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

5.5.1. Goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated more clearly than ever the importance of disaster preparedness and that increased efforts are needed to ensure that the most vulnerable are protected. Humanitarian protection aims to prevent, reduce and respond to the risks and consequences of violence, deprivation and abuse in humanitarian settings. Every year, DG ECHO assesses humanitarian needs and allocates between 7% and 20% of its civil protection and humanitarian aid annual funding for shelter and settlements related humanitarian assistance. Building back safer is essential for resilience, especially in disaster-prone countries: shelter plays an essential role in reducing vulnerability and building resilience. The EU allocated over €1 billion for targeted protection actions from 2015-2019.

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

The COVID-19 is expected to exacerbate all forms of malnutrition, particularly in children, due to a loss of household income, a lack of available and affordable nutritious food, reduced physical activity and disruptions in essential nutrition services. DG ECHO works to reduce undernutrition of children under 5

11 Gender- and age-sensitive aid (europa.eu)
years old, especially in the most critical crises requiring humanitarian nutrition support were Chad, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Niger. Food and nutrition assistance accounts for almost 20% of the EU’s total humanitarian budget in 2020 it counted for around €500 million.

**SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

**SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**

The EU aims to help children affected by humanitarian crises to have access to safe, quality and accredited primary and secondary education. Education is crucial to give every child a better future and develop its full potential. In 2021 the EU continued its strong leadership in education in emergencies, dedicating 10% of EU humanitarian aid to restore and maintain access to safe, quality and inclusive primary and secondary education during humanitarian crises. The EU supported over 2.3 million children to quickly enter or return to learning opportunities.

**SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

Natural hazards and human-induced crises are not gender neutral: they have a different impact on women, girls, boys, and men. To respond effectively to different needs, EU humanitarian assistance must take gender and age into account. To ensure the effective implementation of this policy, DG ECHO introduced a Gender-Age Marker in 2014. This tool measures how EU-funded humanitarian actions integrate gender and age considerations. In 2020, the second assessment report highlighted that in 2016 and 2017, 89% of all EU humanitarian aid integrated gender and age considerations ‘strongly’ or ‘to a certain extent’.

**SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

In emergencies and humanitarian crises, providing access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation and hygiene education is important for a healthy living environment. Water, sanitation and hygiene (also known as WASH) are closely connected sectors and essential for good public health. The European Union, as one of the largest humanitarian donors of WASH assistance, contributes around €200 million each year. This funding ensures timely and dignified access to sufficient and safe water services for populations threatened by humanitarian crises.

**SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

6.5.2. Key achievements and performance

**SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere**

The provision of humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable, sometimes in the form of cash transfers for their basic needs, contributes to paving the way for national social safety nets and more structural poverty reduction national programmes.

The Commission works to reduce undernutrition of children under 5 years old, especially in the most critical crises requiring humanitarian nutrition support.

**SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**

Humanitarian food and nutrition aid will continue to contribute to improved nutrition outcomes and food security by applying an integrated and multisectoral approach.

The fight against acute hunger and acute malnutrition (severe and moderate) is at the centre of humanitarian interventions aiming at reducing the excess mortality and morbidity caused by hunger and malnutrition. Nutrition interventions in emergencies respond to specific needs of targeted vulnerable groups (infants, young children and pregnant and lactating women), by addressing the immediate and
underlying causes of malnutrition. Immediate access to food and free access to lifesaving healthcare respond to acute food and nutrition crises; water, sanitation and hygiene measures together with the provision of accessible health services (disease control measures) and safe environments play a dominant role in individual nutritional status.

The Commission funding for nutrition aims at providing lifesaving interventions to the most vulnerable populations. For example, severely malnourished children in Sudan are given therapeutic food in treatment centres; in Ethiopia, recurrent droughts make children much more at risk of acute malnutrition in the Somali region. Humanitarian support responds to the nutritional needs of these children in remote areas with no access to basic services. In Syria, children under 5 years of age and pregnant and lactating women disproportionately affected by the conflict are included in nutrition programmes and provided with treatment to severe acute malnutrition and comprehensive healthcare services.

Climate change, conflicts and economic shocks increasingly influence food security and nutrition in fragile settings. The COVID-19 is expected to exacerbate all forms of malnutrition, particularly in children, due to a loss of household income, lack of available and affordable nutritious food, reduced physical activity and disruptions in essential nutrition services. In a context of unprecedented food insecurity, the EU stepped up humanitarian interventions on several fronts. Humanitarian funding was significantly increased to the 42 countries most affected by food insecurity: initial allocations were 20% higher compared to 2020 and, additionally, more than EUR 250 million were mobilised from reserves throughout the year. Advocacy was intensified in key countries such as Yemen, Ethiopia, Madagascar or Nigeria. Actions were also taken with a longer-term perspective, including a further enforcement of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in food crises scenarios, or the promotion of anticipatory action approaches (e.g. a high-level event was co-organised with FFP in October).

**SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

The health humanitarian assistance aims at limiting excess preventable mortality, permanent disability and diseases associated with humanitarian crises. Lifesaving healthcare services are essential for the most vulnerable populations (children under 5 years old, women, displaced populations) affected by natural or manmade humanitarian crises. In fragile and heavily disrupted systems, humanitarian health funding contributes to the provision of primary healthcare (e.g. in cyclone-affected areas of Mozambique), vaccinations (e.g. during the Ebola outbreaks and the COVID-19 pandemic), access to medicines and medical devices. Emergency health response to outbreaks and building national capacities for preparedness is important to cope with increased relapse of epidemics.

Mental health and psychosocial support is an integral part of the humanitarian health assistance in case of sexual violence, mental disorders, trauma and high distress (e.g. for conflict-affected people in Ukraine, refugees in Uganda, internally displaced persons in South Sudan). Digitalisation and innovation in the health sector has prominently influenced also humanitarian interventions (e.g. electronic medical records, mobile apps for contact tracing).

**SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

Natural hazards and human-induced crises are not gender neutral: they have a different impact on women, girls, boys, and men. To respond effectively to different needs, EU humanitarian assistance must take gender and age into account. To ensure the effective implementation of this policy, DG ECHO introduced a Gender-Age Marker in 2014. This tool measures how EU-funded humanitarian actions integrate gender and age considerations. In 2021, estimates show that the EU allocated approximately EUR 33.1 million in humanitarian aid to prevent and respond to gender-based violence under its protection and health
programming. Furthermore, in 2021, it is estimated that the EU allocated approximately EUR 29.7 million to sexual and reproductive health from its humanitarian health programming.

The EU ensures that gender and age considerations are taken into account in all its humanitarian aid operations. To ensure an effective, quality response, humanitarian action should cater for the differentiated needs and capacities of women, girls, men and boys; and should contribute to the active participation of women and girls in humanitarian aid. Supporting the prevention and response to gender-based violence is considered as a life-saving humanitarian intervention and a priority.

The European Union continued to engage as an active member of the new Call to Action on Gender-Based Violence, a global initiative which brings almost 100 partners representing UN Agencies, INGOs, national/local NGOs as well as states and donors with the aim of driving structural change in the humanitarian system to address gender-based violence. As a practical example of its continued commitment to the Call to Action, the EU sent its commitment to the new Call to Action roadmap 2021-2025 in January 2021.

**SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

In emergencies and humanitarian crises, providing access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation and hygiene education is important for a healthy living environment. Water, sanitation and hygiene (also known as WASH) are closely connected sectors and essential for good public health. The European Union, as one of the largest humanitarian donors of WASH assistance, contributes around EUR 200 million each year. This funding ensures timely and dignified access to sufficient and safe water services for populations threatened by humanitarian crises.

The EU provides safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support through its humanitarian aid operations to those in need during humanitarian crises and ensures that the most vulnerable have access to WASH. In 2021, significant progress has been made regarding the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus, increasing coherence across the WASH sectors and all stakeholder groups, based on a joint understanding, solid evidence, and mutual learning on all levels.

The promotion of basic WASH services (‘minimal WASH package’) and multisector outcomes, as part of other ‘stand-alone’ sector service deliveries, such as health, nutrition, education in emergencies, and shelter and settlements, remained the primary objective of the EU’s WASH policy, especially in the framework of acute and chronic crises (e.g. WASH operations in South Sudan and in the Sahel zone). 2021 was also the first implementation year of Climate Investor 2, a programme that actively developed its pipeline with the private sector in the areas of water access in rural areas, innovative sanitation solutions and non-revenue water.

**SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

The EU contributes to this goal through its targeted disaster preparedness actions aiming at strengthening national and local capacities to respond to climate-related disasters and thus be more resilient to such shocks. Actions span from conducting risk assessments, to support strengthening early warning systems, developing contingency plans, stockpiling equipment and supplies or reinforcing skills of first responders in conducting emergency operations. Through its dedicated budget line for Disaster Preparedness, the Commission also supports third countries in reinforcing their capacity for emergency response to disasters and thus, strengthens their resilience and capability to adapt to changes in climate impacts. In 2021, the Commission allocated EUR 75 million for preparedness interventions in third countries. Through the emergency toolbox, additional funding is provided to respond to unexpected emergencies.
Furthermore, the inclusion of climate risk analysis in the design of all humanitarian actions helps ensure that the interventions take into consideration and respond to the risks posed by climate change and to its possible impacts. The EU supports the implementation of a greener humanitarian response by reducing the environmental and climate footprint of its funded humanitarian actions. To this end, in 2021, it developed a set of minimum environmental requirements for its partners to comply with when implementing humanitarian operations. 2022 will be a transition year during which partners will start to apply these standards to the extent feasible.