

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)

Latin America and the Caribbean

The activities proposed hereafter are still subject to the adoption of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2017/01000

AMOUNT: EUR 13 550 000

The present Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) was prepared on the basis of financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2017/01000 (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.

1. CONTEXT

This HIP covers response to man-made and natural disasters as well as disaster risk reduction and resilience in Latin America and the Caribbean. In terms of response, the focus is firstly on the consequences of the armed conflict in Colombia and humanitarian needs in Central America. Secondly, it allows for a possible response to new crises in the region, in countries with limited capacity to cope, where national or local capacity may be overwhelmed. This could particularly concern Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, Haiti and the other Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean. Finally, it will continue to support Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), in particular with support to regional and national strategies.

Colombia conflict

After the initial peace agreement was narrowly rejected by plebiscite on 2 October, a revised peace agreement has been reached between the Colombian Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), providing an opportunity to end a conflict which has lasted more than 50 years. However, despite the peace agreement, violence by other armed groups battling for territorial control is affecting many areas of the country.

The impact of the revised peace agreement on the humanitarian context is uncertain, but humanitarian needs are likely to continue in the short term before the situation stabilizes, with humanitarian access and respect for International Humanitarian Law potentially becoming more challenging.

According to OCHA, from January-August 2016, 480 separate events were registered, restricting civilians' mobility and access to basic services such as health care and education, causing humanitarian needs for over 27 000 people and triggering the displacement of roughly 16 000 people every month within Colombia, with a spill-over to neighbouring countries, mostly Venezuela and Ecuador.

In addition to ongoing violence, Colombia is highly disaster-prone and statistically 80% of disasters occur in conflict affected municipalities, where vulnerabilities are higher and access is sometimes limited for local and national emergency response mechanisms.

Continued humanitarian assistance to conflict affected people in Colombia will be reviewed in the light of developments concerning the peace agreement and the evolution of the violence perpetrated by the different armed groups. ECHO will aim to increasingly link humanitarian

initiatives with development and resilience programmes in conflict affected areas. ECHO will also contribute to the Trust Fund established in the context of the peace agreement.

ECHO's Integrated Analysis Framework (IAF) for 2016 identifies high humanitarian needs in Colombia. The vulnerability of the population affected by the crisis is assessed to be high, combined with high exposure to hazards. Colombia is included in ECHO's Forgotten Crisis Assessment Index.

Central America

Successive shocks over the last years, exacerbated by the El Niño droughts and the coffee rust plague resulted in significant losses in agricultural production and affected the main sources of income. With the majority of small scale farmers having lost between 75 to 100% of crops, the food security of vulnerable populations living at subsistence level has seriously deteriorated. An estimated 1.8 million people are moderately to severely food insecure in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. The combination of high exposure to hazards, high levels of poverty and extreme levels of violence - Central American countries are amongst the most violent in the world - is eroding the coping capacities of local populations and administrations and leading to recurrent emergency situations. Climate change and rapid unplanned urbanization further exacerbate vulnerability.

ECHO's IAF for 2016 identifies high humanitarian needs in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, with very high affectation by the food crisis in Guatemala and Honduras. The vulnerability of the population affected by the crisis is assessed to be high.

Haiti

Following the widespread damage caused by Hurricane Matthew, the EU has mobilized a comprehensive response integrating humanitarian and development funding, through complementary funding instruments/decisions. This comprehensive approach will be implemented throughout 2017.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience

The Latin America and Caribbean region is exposed to multiple natural hazards: volcanoes, earthquakes, droughts, floods, landslides, and yearly cycles of major tropical storms, partly due to global warming. Approximately three-quarters of the population live in at-risk areas, and one-third live in areas highly exposed to hazards. Recurrent natural disasters have a high human and economic cost, impacting societies that have significant inequalities and are highly urbanized (over 80% of the region's population lives in cities), creating specific vulnerability areas prone to major impact. The region is also exposed to epidemics such as cholera and other water borne diseases. Relatively good levels of human and economic development mask large pockets of extreme poverty leading to exclusion, vulnerability and low coping capacities.

Throughout the region, there is increasing awareness of the importance of DRR, with new policies, laws and regulations being developed in most countries. However, implementation of approved policies and laws is still lacking. National governments have increased their ability to respond to small and localized events, but quality and coverage of assistance is still far from satisfactory. Recent large events (Hurricane Matthew, Ecuador earthquake, El Niño related drought and flooding in the region), provided evidence of the difficulties authorities face to adequately prepare for and quickly respond to large scale humanitarian needs, and demonstrated gaps in local and national risk management capacities. Institutions involved in DRR/disaster management have insufficient technical capacities and/or resources. For instance, in Haiti there is a Civil Protection Directorate but it remains highly dependent on external

funding, and an institutional and legal framework is lacking as no national law on Disaster Risk Management exists yet. Disaster management capacity varies across the region.

In most countries, there is a window of opportunity to strengthen institutional and community resilience with actions implemented after the occurrence of disasters. DRR funding will support regional strategies carried out by regional institutions and supported by national agencies.

2. Humanitarian Needs

2.1 Affected people/potential beneficiaries

Colombia

According to the OCHA Humanitarian Needs Overview 2017, 4.9 million people are still in need of humanitarian assistance. The main vulnerable groups affected by the consequences of conflict-related violence and without sufficient access to government assistance are: displaced populations in Colombia and Colombian refugees in neighbouring countries suffering from high vulnerability and not receiving official assistance; people living in rural and urban areas with a presence of non-state armed groups and suffering from confinement.

Central America

According to WFP, 1.8 million people are moderately to severely food insecure in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. Small-scale farmers and indigenous people are particularly affected by the food insecurity.

Disaster Risk Reduction/ Resilience

The countries mentioned in section 1 are all disaster-prone. Populations most affected by disasters are usually the poorest and most vulnerable, with no or poor access to basic services such as water and sanitation and health infrastructure. The urban poor are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters. This population's vulnerability tends to increase after each event, rendering them in need of humanitarian assistance.

Potential beneficiaries are vulnerable communities and institutions responsible for disaster management.

2.2 Description of the most acute humanitarian needs

Colombia

Main humanitarian needs are the protection of victims and populations at risk. Other needs (Shelter, WASH, Food and NFI) are consequences of restrictions on access to basic services and livelihoods caused by the presence of armed actors. Recently displaced people are often in a situation of trauma linked to violence and unmet basic needs, often not covered by local authorities in the most critical phase of the displacement. Protection in terms of psychosocial and legal support together with assistance to cover their basic needs is the priority in this case. Among these groups, a differential approach needs to be taken considering specific vulnerabilities of gender, age and diversity. Women are more exposed to sexual violence, single-headed families suffer more severely the consequences of displacement, and children and youth are prone to forced recruitment. Afro-Colombians and indigenous people are by far the main ethnic groups affected by the conflict. In the context of the peace agreement, there is a continued need for humanitarian coordination and advocacy, systematic and timely needs assessments, data collection, analysis, presentation and dissemination.

Central America

The need for humanitarian assistance in terms of food assistance, nutrition and livelihood recovery has increased due to the impact of El Niño, insufficient response capacity of local governments and limited external support. There is also a need to build resilience among vulnerable populations, limiting the impact of recurrent shocks. Nutritional surveillance and support, generation and dissemination of information and preparedness capacities of national institutions and humanitarian actors need also to be strengthened to prevent further deterioration of livelihoods and to minimize impact of shocks. Access to vulnerable groups and affected areas is often limited due to pervasive violence and presence/control of gangs and non-state armed groups.

Disaster Risk Reduction/Resilience

Support is needed for communities vulnerable to adverse events as well as local institutions to increase their resilience and enhance their preparedness, and to translate national and regional strategies into actions on the ground.

3. Humanitarian Response

3.1 National/local response and involvement

Colombia

Colombia has a legal and institutional framework for assisting victims of the conflict, establishing the responsibilities of the State and local authorities in the provision of humanitarian aid. The main institution in charge of attention to conflict victims is the National Unit for the Assistance to Victims (UARIV), mandated to respond when municipal capacities are overwhelmed. Since its creation in 2012, UARIV has increased its capacity to respond, but there are still important gaps mainly in remote areas where the State has limited or no access.

Assistance to the victims of the conflict depends primarily on the municipalities, which lack capacities and resources, and are often affected by considerable levels of corruption. The amount of assistance provided by municipal and departmental authorities is unreported and represents a major information gap. Local and national institutions frequently lack access to areas controlled by non-state armed groups, where only humanitarian organizations are able to assist communities. According to UARIV, more than 70% of the displaced population since 1985 has never received any sort of immediate assistance at the moment of displacement.

Central America

Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras have limited capacity and resources to address food insecurity, given the scale of affectation. Efforts have been made by national governments to mitigate the impact of persisting drought by providing food assistance and through livelihood recovery and protection initiatives, but the measures remain limited. The national and local capacity to manage recurrent disasters remains equally limited. Moreover, access to some of the food insecure areas is restricted due to pervasive violence. National DRR systems of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua have incipient drought and food security Early Warning Systems, but these have not been tested, scaled-up or institutionalized. Institutions focus on reactive actions rather than preventive measures.

Disaster Risk Reduction

The situation is highly diverse depending on the country. Response and preparation capabilities have improved across the region, but the focus is still mostly on the response phase, while preparedness capacities remain weak and limited, often due to lack of resources and know-how.

Support is needed to promote effective implementation of DRR policies and strategies and to strengthen existing capacities. Furthermore, even in countries with well-established national structures for disaster response and preparedness, severity of events often overwhelm capacity and demonstrate gaps in disaster management.

At the regional level in South America, multinational bodies such as the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) are not yet in a position to consolidate, exchange and disseminate national and local good practices. At the regional level in Central America, a DRR framework has been established (by the coordination centre for prevention of natural disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC) and the Central American Policy for comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (PCGIR), mainstreaming DRR in specific sectors such as education and health.

At the regional level in the Caribbean, capacities have increased and a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) endorsed Comprehensive Disaster Management strategy exists and is supported by all stakeholders. There is scope for the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) regional response mechanism to be strengthened and exchanges need to be fostered between countries and with the rest of the region.

3.2 International Humanitarian Response

Colombia

The main planning tool for humanitarian assistance is the Humanitarian Response Plan which is developed through the Humanitarian Country Team under the guidance of OCHA and with the contribution of the main humanitarian stakeholders in the country. The general trend is a decrease of humanitarian funding to Colombia despite the persistence of needs. According to the "Who's doing What Where" (4W) information system, in 2015, the international community contributed USD 68 million to respond to humanitarian needs in Colombia, reaching barely half of the amount required to meet the estimated needs. To respond to humanitarian needs in 2016, USD 134.2 million is required, but as of November 2016 only 39% has been allocated.

Central America

In 2016, in Guatemala, USD 4.8 million was allocated from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to respond to El Niño related drought. An Emergency Appeal of CHF 2 million was also launched by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). In Honduras, USA, Japan and Canada contributed funds through the World Food Programme (WFP) to support drought affected families suffering from food insecurity in the most affected communities. Their respective allocations amount to USD 2.3 million, USD 577,500 and USD 2.2 million. In El Salvador, the IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal of USD 2.25 million to assist drought affected families.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience:

In April 2016, the World Bank, with the support of the European Commission, signed a EUR 14 million agreement to be implemented by the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) to facilitate access to low cost, high quality, catastrophe risk insurance for the governments of Central American countries and the Dominican Republic. This contribution will support these countries to become members of the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CRIF SPC), a regional catastrophe fund for Caribbean and Central American governments to limit the financial impact of hurricanes and earthquakes.

Main donors in the Caribbean are: UK Department for International Development (DfID); Canada; Spanish Agency for International Development (AECID); USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA); Inter-American Development Bank (IADB); and World Bank. An estimated EUR 12.5 million contribution for the Caribbean region is available from the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for the period 2011-2017.

3.3 Constraints and ECHO response capacity

Due to its proximity to the field through its field offices and long presence in the region, ECHO has unique knowledge of the context and privileged access and acceptance, leading to capacity for high quality response.

In addition, through its partners, ECHO has continued presence and good knowledge of and access to the field. In conflicts such as in Colombia, recognition and acceptance by all parties and access are major assets, enabling humanitarian organizations to reach beneficiaries in remote and sensitive locations, out of the range of government aid. The absorption capacity of partners, in terms of funding and operational capacity, is high. Furthermore, partners usually work with local implementing partners with solid collaboration history, further facilitating access and acceptance. Presence through DRR activities also facilitates access, knowledge of context and work with institutions, facilitating quick response in case of disaster.

In **Colombia**, constraints are related to possible scenarios involving other armed groups occupying territories, which could lead to humanitarian space becoming more restricted in some areas. Security is an issue in areas affected by the conflict, where access is frequently problematic, as well as along borders. Access/humanitarian space can be limited due to prevailing insecurity in some rural conflict areas and marginal urban zones, with the potential for further deterioration. Logistical constraints and remoteness of conflict affected areas can increase the cost of operations mainly where there is no road access, which is often the case.

In **Central America**, violence could disrupt or complicate access for humanitarian partners. Some areas remain off-limits, such as ultra-violent urban neighborhoods, cities or provinces controlled by armed groups or *maras*. Increasing violence in Central America is a growing concern and strict security protocols are necessary for staff and visitors alike.

In the **Caribbean**, possible social and/or political instability could disrupt projects and result in suspensions. Possible tensions between Haiti and Dominican Republic could affect the implementation capacities of partners and access to the affected population.

3.4 Envisaged ECHO response and expected results of humanitarian aid interventions.

In all actions, Partners will be expected to ensure full compliance with visibility requirements as set out in the applicable contractual arrangements. Derogations can be awarded on security grounds.

For further guidance on sectors and geographical zones, please refer to the Technical Annex.

Colombia

The focus will be on filling gaps in the provision of humanitarian assistance and protection to vulnerable displaced people with urgent needs and conflict-affected vulnerable communities. Actions should aim to reinforce resilience and local capacities to the extent possible. Legal support for victims to access official assistance, reinforcement of local capacities to assist

victims and opening access to conflict affected areas for public institutions are examples. DRR should be integrated when possible and pertinent. Advocacy and coordination will be pursued, to articulate efforts and raise awareness, also regarding victims' right to Government assistance. Complementarity and articulation between partners is encouraged to provide integral and comprehensive responses. Coordination, information management and monitoring of the humanitarian situation are essential and particularly important in the current context of a "forgotten crisis" with humanitarian needs evolving and becoming less visible. Complementarity and synergies with other EU services and funding instruments will be sought.

Central America: The focus will be on food assistance and short to medium term livelihood recovery and protection, on the basis of replicating and/or adapting past successful initiatives that have proven to reduce vulnerability to food insecurity after a shock, while helping to build resilience. Multisectoral approaches incorporating DRR will also be supported. Special attention will be given to actions with synergies with on-going humanitarian and development initiatives for food security, nutrition and livelihoods. Actions will focus on response to most acute humanitarian needs, aiming to meet critical needs of the most vulnerable, improve information gathering and data analysis to maximize the impact of humanitarian assistance.

DRR/Resilience

ECHO support envisages assisting regional and national authorities in building local preparedness and response capacities and improving the practical implementation of DRR.

In Central America and the Caribbean, support is envisaged in line with regional strategies, translating them into action on the ground. Support is also envisaged to contribute to the Comprehensive Disaster Management strategy for the Caribbean (through a specific set of indicators) and align it to the Sendai priorities under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Focus areas include drought and epidemic preparedness.

For South America, ECHO funds will consolidate previous achievements at the regional and national level. While previous DIPECHO programmes supported community-based Disaster Risk Management (DRM) projects, scaling up and replication of these initiatives and tools is needed. Support is envisaged to strengthen DRR systems and advocate for DRR/Disaster Preparedness (DP), as institutions and communities are becoming more aware of risks. Support will be provided to UNASUR to facilitate coordination and dissemination of good practices at national and local levels, while enhancing response and coordination capacity to face large-scale natural hazards at the regional level. Coordination between the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and UNASUR's disaster management body will also be facilitated. ECHO actions will support national, regional or cross-border initiatives.

The overall aim is to create better prepared communities and local, national and regional institutions to face disasters, thus reducing mortality and protecting to the extent possible the assets and livelihoods of the most vulnerable. "Crisis modifiers" could be considered in DRR activities to allow a shift to more "emergency-type" interventions in case of need and when possible, where it can be effective and bring an added value.

Actions will link with EU funding when possible, as well as global initiatives such as Resilient Cities, Safe Schools when pertinent, and in general with the Sendai Framework.

4. LINKING RELIEF, REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT (LRRD), COORDINATION AND TRANSITION

Colombia conflict: After more than 15 years providing assistance to the victims of the conflict, many of the actions funded by ECHO have contributed to reinforcing the resilience and capacities of communities and institutions in areas where the State and development cooperation have been absent. The peace agreement between the FARC and the Government will open the door for institutions and development actors to enter some of these areas, building on the capacities and trust created by humanitarian actors in these regions as a baseline for longer-term development initiatives.

A European Union Trust Fund for Colombia has been set up to support implementation of the peace agreement. While humanitarian actions remain outside its scope, it will integrate actions linking humanitarian response with rehabilitation and development and resilience.

For peace to be sustainable, marginalised and conflict-affected communities have to be included, so that they see concrete benefits of peace. The peace agreement offers a historic opportunity to link development and humanitarian aid:

- Using the capacities of humanitarian stakeholders in terms of access, knowledge, good practices, principle-based assistance and protection without political bias, logistic means and trust built with the communities as a starting point for development and peace building initiatives.
- Integrating the risks in terms of violence and natural hazards which communities will still face after the agreement is ratified. Operations supported for the implementation of the peace agreement should reinforce resilience towards these risks and increase the capacities to prevent, face and recover from adverse events. This should be done through systematic risk analysis and risk informed interventions.

ECHO advocates for this and will encourage other donors and development stakeholders to reinforce the capacities of communities and institutions to prevent, face and recover from the shocks to which they will be exposed in the post-agreement.

4.1 Other ECHO interventions

The 2016 HIP for **Central America** (EUR 8.3 million) focused on disaster preparedness interventions, integrating specific actions to promote resilience in food security and disaster risk reduction (DRR) actions adapted to violent contexts. Education in emergencies was also supported.

The 2016 HIP for **South America** (EUR 18 165 000) focused on response to humanitarian needs as well as disaster preparedness, risk reduction and resilience activities. As regards humanitarian response, the main focus was the conflict in Colombia, the earthquake in Ecuador, El Nino-related drought in La Guajira in Colombia, and floods in Paraguay. Education in emergencies was also supported.

The 2016 HIP for the **Caribbean** (EUR 15 million) responded to humanitarian needs mainly in Haiti, as well as disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience in Haiti, Dominican Republic and Cuba. It was modified to integrate response to the impact of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti. In

Haiti, the total support in 2016 reached EUR 13 955 000. The EU comprehensive response integrating humanitarian and development funding will be implemented throughout 2017.

4.2 Other concomitant EU interventions

Joint work with other EU services continues to ensure links between assistance and development (e.g. Instrument for Stability, Thematic Budget lines and sector programmes), and joint analysis of needs is promoted for disaster risk reduction and resilience

Colombia

- Bilateral funding for Colombia: 67 million for 2014-2017 EUR, of which EUR 53.6 million for local economic development and institutional strengthening, EUR 10 million for sustainable trade and investment and EUR 3.4 million for support measures.
- IcSP (Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace): Support to immediate implementation of the Peace Agreement between the Government of Colombia and FARC (EUR 13 million). These funds aim to support the rapid response strategy of the government in terms of demining, peace pedagogy and communication, transitional justice and deployment of volunteers to conflict affected areas.
- The EU Trust Fund for Colombia will support the implementation of the peace agreement with a focus on rural development. DEVCO and ECHO are working together to ensure that resilience and LRRD are integrated into operations supported by the Trust Fund.

Central America

In 2014, the EU adopted, through the Multiannual Indicative Program for Sub-regional Cooperation with Central America, EUR 120 million for 2014-2020 which includes EUR 40 million for security and rule of law and EUR 35 million for climate change and risk management. Of the latter, EUR 15 million has been allocated to reinforce capacities for better adaptation and resilience of most vulnerable populations to the impact of the coffee rust (PROCAGICA). In addition, at regional level in 2016, the following projects have started in the context of the Regional Information Systems Program in Food and Nutrition Security for Central America: PRESISAN II (EUR 5 million) and PROGRESAN (EUR 5 million). EUR 30 million has been allocated in Honduras to improve food security under the framework of the Dry Corridor alliance.

Several regional programmes are funded from the thematic Food Security budget line, eg: PRESENCA II (Food Security Program for Central America for EUR 13 million); INFORMED (Information for Nutrition Food Security Resilience Decision Making for EUR 5 million).

Haiti/Caribbean

In Haiti, since the 2010 earthquake, linking with other EU funding instruments has been actively pursued. This concerns mainly three sectors: housing for earthquake displaced populations (HIP and 10th European Development Fund (EDF)), DRR (HIP, DIPECHO, Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), mainstreaming and dedicated actions foreseen throughout all the concentration sectors of the 11th EDF, and food security (HIP, DCI13, Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP) 2013), and 10th EDF (Environment/Local Development actions under Binational Programme). Following Hurricane Matthew, ECHO/DEVCO developed a comprehensive response strategy, integrating humanitarian and longer term development actions.

In the rest of the Caribbean, the EU finances the 10th EDF Intra-Africa, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) Group ACP-EU Natural Disaster Reduction Programme (EUR 60 million), entrusted to the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). The 11th EDF initially allocated EUR 61.5 million for the region in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change, and EUR 20 million has been allocated under the ACP-EU initiative for Natural Disaster Risk Management in the Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM) (2014-2020) to support the regional Caribbean Disaster Management strategy implemented jointly by CDEMA and Caribbean Development Bank.

4.3 Other donors availability (such as for LRRD and transition)

Colombia: Apart from the EU, the World Bank, the Interamerican Development Bank and the UN are setting up trust funds which will channel international cooperation to implementation of the peace process. USA is the main donor in Colombia in terms of development and humanitarian aid.

Central America: Main actors present in the region interested in investing in longer term resilience and LRRD: WFP, Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), AECID (Spain), SIDA (Sweden), SDC (Switzerland), JICA (Japan), USAID/OFDA, the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank. In terms of food assistance, however, international humanitarian response has been very limited. Most significant contributions have been from Japan, Canada and USA, channeled through WFP.

Disaster Risk Reduction: The World Bank approved two projects in 2015: USD 5 million to strengthen weather and climate information and decision-support systems (HydroMet) 2015-2020 and USD 50 million for sustainable rural and small towns water and sanitation 2015-2021, in addition to ongoing projects in mother and child health (USD 70 million 2013-2018), DRR (USD 60 million 2011-2016) and others. In Haiti, USAID funds the social protection project Kore Lavi of USD 80 million over four years (2014-2017) and is also supporting the health sector. US Centre for Disease control and prevention (CDC) supports, with over USD 3 million, long-term cholera associated programmes, including disease surveillance, laboratory services, and outbreak investigation. Japan is supporting DRR with USD 3.9 million through UNDP (2015-2017).

At the regional Caribbean level, ECHO is in regular contact with other donors to create opportunities for LRRD. DFID and Canada contribute to the Caribbean Disaster Risk Reduction Fund managed by the Caribbean Development Bank and opportunities for links exist with ECHO funding. Canada is also currently funding a CAD 3 million project on safe hospitals and linkages with previous ECHO funding are being ensured.

Bilateral and Regional programmes on Climate Change, such as EUROCLIMA+ are potential instruments for future complementarity actions between ECHO and DEVCO on DRR, and also as a vehicle to upscale good practices set up by ECHO projects.

4.4 Exit scenarios

Colombia

The EU is working on a comprehensive approach through the EU Trust Fund for Colombia.

Continued humanitarian assistance to conflict affected people in Colombia will be reviewed in the light of developments concerning the peace agreement and the evolution of the violence

perpetrated by the different armed groups. ECHO will aim to link humanitarian initiatives with development and resilience programmes in conflict affected areas.

Central America

ECHO actions will continue the process of linking with medium to long-term livelihood and food security actions, ensuring handover to development actors.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Since its creation, the DIPECHO programme has evolved from community activities towards a more institutional approach in order to create appropriate conditions for the institutionalization of practices and for replication. The exit strategy will consist of progressive handing over and advocacy towards authorities and development programmes, based on analysis of risk and coping capacities and existing DRR actions funded by other development actors/EU services. This evolution is more advanced in some countries than in others, which means that there is still room for work in this area as well as addressing hazards in a comprehensive manner at local, sub-national, national or regional level.

In South America, ECHO DRR programming has already phased out from Argentina, Brazil and Chile, and a progressive phase out can be planned for all countries. Vulnerability to disasters together with the existing gaps in DRM capacities makes it advisable to continue the process and consolidate the work done, specifically in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela, focusing particularly on implementation at the local and community level of mechanisms and tools to enhance preparedness and resilience, with the participation of local civil society organizations.

In Central America and the Caribbean, ECHO will aim at fully phasing out of the regions in the next cycle in close cooperation with other EU instruments and other stakeholders.