Comprehensive evaluation of Humanitarian Aid 2012-2016

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

If you wish to respond to this consultation in French, German, or Spanish, please go back to the consultation <u>Home Page</u> and choose your preferred language.

The European Commission is the second largest international donor of humanitarian aid. During the period 2012-2016, the European Commission Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) had a total budget of EUR 7.2 billion for humanitarian aid (including fund allocated to humanitarian aid from the European Development Fund). During the five financial years covered by this evaluation, 3,730 contracts were signed with 169 different Framework Partners active in all humanitarian aid sectors.

In addition to funding humanitarian aid, DG ECHO also led several global initiatives and took part in international platforms on humanitarian aid, the most recent one being <u>the World Humanitarian Summit</u> wh ich paved the way to <u>the Grand Bargain</u> initiative. DG ECHO also took part in cross-policy initiatives with other EU services and institutions, such as the recent <u>Communication of forced displacement and</u> <u>development</u>. As part of its work DG ECHO also took its own policy initiatives in a variety of sectors notably through the publication of <u>sector-specific and thematic guidance</u>.

Reasons for this Open Public Consultation

- DG ECHO is currently undertaking an evaluation of its humanitarian aid activities during the period 2012-2016. The purpose of this evaluation is to provide an independent assessment of the relevance, coherence, EU added value, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of DG ECHO's humanitarian aid activities. The evaluation will also aim to inform the future orientations of DG ECHO's approach to humanitarian aid.
- The evaluation is based on evidence collected from a variety of sources such as desk research, online surveys, interviews with key stakeholders, fieldwork in selected countries and this Open Public Consultation (OPC).
- The objective of the OPC is to give EU citizens and all concerned stakeholders an opportunity to express their views on the performance of DG ECHO during the period 2012-2016. This OPC is split in two different sets of questions:, i.e.:
 - One for respondents with good knowledge of the humanitarian aid sector, and;

• One for the general public

Please note that you can also upload a document (e.g. position paper) at the end of the questionnaire.

Choice of set of questions

*1 To what extent are you familiar to DG ECHO humanitarian aid activities?

between 1 and 1 choices

- Not at all
- To some extent
- To a large extent
- E Fully

Respondents who select the first two answers continue with the questionnaire for the general public. Respondents who select the last two answers continue with the questionnaire for informed stakeholders.

About you

- *2 You are replying
 - as an individual in your personal capacity
 - in your professional capacity or on behalf of an organisation
- *9 Respondent's first name

*10 Respondent's last name

*11 Respondent's professional email address

*12 Name of the organisation

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

*13 Postal address of the organisation

Rijnstraat 8 2515 XP The Hague The Netherlands

*14 Type of organisation

Please select the answer option that fits best.

- Private enterprise
- Professional consultancy, law firm, self-employed consultant
- Trade, business or professional association
- Non-governmental organisation, platform or network
- Research and academia
- Churches and religious communities
- Regional or local authority (public or mixed)
- International or national public authority
- Other
- *22 Please specify the type of organisation.
 - Intergovernmental organisation
 - EU institution, body or agency
 - National parliament
 - National government
 - National public authority or agency

*23 Is your organisation included in the Transparency Register?

If your organisation is not registered, we invite you to register <u>here</u>, although it is not compulsory to be registered to reply to this consultation. <u>Why a transparency register</u>?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable
- *25 Country of organisation's headquarters
 - Austria
 - Belgium
 - Bulgaria
 - Croatia
 - Cyprus
 - Czech Republic
 - Denmark
 - Estonia
 - Finland
 - France
 - Germany
 - Greece
 - Hungary
 - Ireland
 - Italy
 - Latvia
 - Lithuania
 - Luxembourg
 - Malta

- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- Other

*27 Your contribution,

Note that, whatever option chosen, your answers may be subject to a request for public access to documents under <u>Regulation (EC)</u> <u>N°1049/2001</u>

- Can be published with your organisation's information (I consent the publication of all information in my contribution in whole or in part including the name of my organisation, and I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent publication)
- Can be published provided that your organisation remains anonymous (I consent to the publication of any information in my contribution in whole or in part (which may include quotes or opinions I express) provided that it is done anonymously. I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent the publication.

A. DG ECHO performance from 2012 until end-2016

This part of the questionnaire covers different evaluation criteria. Please take both DG ECHO's strategic and political approaches as well as its funded actions into account when answering the questions.

Relevance

In the context of an evaluation relevance looks at the relationship between the needs and problems in society and the objectives of the intervention.

28 Based on your knowledge of and experience with DG ECHO's humanitarian aid policies and funded actions, please rate your level of agreement with the following statement:

DG ECHO's budget allocations are based on the consideration of the most pressing humanitarian needs

between 1 and 1 choices

- Not at all
- To some extent
- To a large extent
- **V** Fully
- Don't know

29 Please elaborate on your rating of the previous question.

300 character(s) maximum

ECHO uses in-depth analyses to come to their decisions on budget allocations (e.g. INFORM).

Coherence

The evaluation of coherence involves looking at a how well or not different actions and actors work together.

Based on your knowledge of and experience with DG ECHO's policies and funded actions, please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:

30 DG ECHO's funded actions are consistent with the four humanitarian principles (humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence) in their design and implementation. Please particularly consider the challenges posed by restricted humanitarian access in conflict-related crises.

000000000000000000000000000000000000000	between	1	and	1	choices
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- Not at all
- To some extent
- To a large extent
- E Fully
- Don't know

31 DG ECHO's funded actions are coherent and complementary with those of Member States.

between	1	and	1	choices

- Not at all
- To some extent
- **V** To a large extent
- E Fully
- 📃 Don't know

32 DG ECHO's funded actions are coherent and complementary with those of other international donors.

between 1 and 1 choices

Not at all

- To some extent
- To a large extent
- Fully
- Don't know

33 DG ECHO's humanitarian aid policies and funded actions are coherent and complementary with the policies and actions of other parts of the European Commission, such as the service for development and cooperation (DG DEVCO) and the service for enlargement and neighbourhood (DG NEAR).

between 1 and 1 choices

- Not at all
- To some extent
- To a large extent
- Fully
- Don't know

34 DG ECHO needs more collaboration with **other Commission services and EU institutions** to increase policy coherence related to:

	Not at all	To some extent	To a large extent	Fully	Don't know
Humanitarian aid and development aid (e.g. Linking Relief to Rehabilitation and Development and the humanitarian-development "nexus")	0	۲	O	0	0
Humanitarian aid and climate change (e.g. disaster risk reduction, resilience, early warning)	0	۲	0	0	0
Humanitarian aid and forced displacement	۲	O	۲	0	۲

35 DG ECHO needs to collaborate more with **other donors** in the countries / regions of intervention, on increasing collaboration related to:

	Not at all	To some extent	To a large extent	Fully	Don't know
Humanitarian aid and development aid (e.g. Linking Relief to Rehabilitation and Development and the humanitarian-development "nexus")	O	O	۲	0	0
Humanitarian aid and climate change (e.g. disaster risk reduction, resilience, early warning)	0	۲	0	0	0
Humanitarian aid and forced displacement	۲	۲	O	0	0

36 DG ECHO needs to collaborate more with **Member States** in the countries / regions of intervention, on increasing collaboration related to:

	Not at all	To some extent	To a large extent	Fully	Don't know
Humanitarian aid and development aid (e.g. Linking Relief to Rehabilitation and Development and the humanitarian-development "nexus")	0	۲	0	0	0
Humanitarian aid and climate change (e.g. disaster risk reduction, resilience, early warning)	0	۲	۲	0	0
Humanitarian aid and forced displacement	0	0	۲	0	0

37 With reference to the above questions on coherence, please elaborate on your rating, including a suggestion (if applicable) for other possible themes for collaboration with other actors and stakeholders

300 character(s) maximum

LRRD, nexus and forced displacement: ECHO could look for more coherence with other initiatives such as the CRRF, Worldbank initiative and New Way of Working.

38 What are, in your view, the main factors **supporting** a coherent approach to humanitarian aid at EU level (i.e. with other Commission services, EU institutions, international donors and Member States)? *300 character(s) maximum*

Information sharing at working party level, (inter-agency) consultations, field coordination.

39 What are, in your view, the main factors **hindering** a coherent approach to humanitarian aid at EU level (i.e. with other Commission services, EU institutions, international donors and Member States)? *300 character(s) maximum*

Information is not always shared at an early stage, such as indicative yearly planning between Commission (ECHO) and EU MSs. Commission, other EU institutions, international donors and EU MSs could benefit from more consistent sharing of analyses and best practices.

40 What are, in your view, the main factors **supporting** the coherence of DG ECHO activities with the activities of other Commission services, EU institutions, international donors and Member States at country / region of intervention level?

300 character(s) maximum

See nr. 38.

41 What are, in your view, the main factors **hindering** the coherence of DG ECHO activities with the activities of other Commission services, EU institutions, international donors and Member States at country / region of intervention level?

300 character(s) maximum

See nr. 39.

EU Added Value

In an evaluation EU-added value looks for changes which it can reasonably be argued are due to EU intervention, rather than any other factors.

42 Based on your knowledge of and experience with DG ECHO's policies and funded actions, please rate your level of agreement with the following statement:

Actions financed by DG ECHO on the ground have a clear added value to actions financed by other donors, including Member States.

between 1 and 1 choices

- Not at all
- To some extent
- To a large extent
- E Fully
- Don't know

43 Based on your knowledge of and experience with DG ECHO's policies and funded actions, please rate your level of agreement with the following statement:

Policies developed by DG ECHO in the following areas have added value to the international humanitarian aid political agenda over the last years:

	Not at all	To some extent	To a large extent	Fully	Don't know
Capacity building	0	۲	۲	0	\odot
Cash & vouchers	0	0	0	۲	\odot
Disaster risk reduction	۲	۲	۲	0	\odot
Education in emergencies	0	۲	0	۲	\odot
Shelter and settlements	0	۲	0	0	\odot
Food security and livelihoods	0	۲	0	0	\odot
Gender- and age-sensitive aid	0	۲	0	۲	\odot
Health	0	۲	۲	0	\odot
Nutrition	0	۲	0	0	0
Protection	0	۲	0	0	\odot
Refugees and internally displaced	O	0	۲	0	0
Resilience	0	۲	۲	0	\odot
WASH	0	۲	O	0	\odot
Advocacy	0	۲	O	0	\odot

44 Please elaborate on your rating relating to EU Added Value

300 character(s) maximum

On cash, education in emergencies and gender- and age-sensitive aid ECHO played a leading role in the international humanitarian debate. The gender-age marker for example set the standard for the international humanitarian community.

45 What are the key factors contributing to the added value of ECHO's funded actions?

Prioritization by ECHO, assigning capacity to come up with a well-informed and substantiated position and move the debate forward.

46 What specific aspects contribute to the added value of DG ECHO (for example, programming through a needs-based approach, programming focussing on specific sectors / regions, delivery through 'certified' framework partners, delivery monitored by DG ECHO field experts, etc.)

Focusing on specific sectors or themes, such as gender-sensitive programming; and a needs-based approach on the basis of thorough analyses.

47 Do you have any examples of projects or policy results that could not have been achieved without a coordinated effort at the EU level?

300 character(s) maximum

The gender-age marker.

Effectiveness

In the context of an evaluation the effectiveness analysis considers how successful EU action has been in achieving or progressing towards its objectives.

48 Based on your knowledge and experience with DG ECHO's policies and funded actions, please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:

ECHO funded actions have met identified humanitarian needs and significantly contributed to:

	Not at all	To some extent	To a large extent	Fully	Don't know
Saving lives	0	0	0	۲	
Reducing morbidity and suffering	0	0	0	۲	0
Improving dignity of life	0	0	0	۲	0
Influencing and shaping the global humanitarian system	0	0	۲	0	0
Making humanitarian aid more effective	O	۲	0	0	O

49 Please elaborate on your rating relating to effectiveness

300 character(s) maximum

ECHO delivered fulfilling the mission of humanitarian aid: saving lives, reducing suffering, improve dignity. ECHO and EU MSs are increasingly shaping the global humanitarian system. Improved coordination between Commission services / EU MSs could provide EU humanitarian action with more leverage.

Sustainability

In an evaluation sustainability looks at how likely are the effects to last after the intervention ends.

50 Based on your knowledge and experience with DG ECHO's policies and funded actions, please rate your level of agreement with the following statement:

Most humanitarian aid activities / approaches financed by DG ECHO continue even after DG ECHO humanitarian aid funding has ended (e.g. continued by the local community or another donor).

between 1 and 1 choices

Not at all

To some extent

To a a large extent

E Fully

Don't know

51 Based on your knowledge and experience with DG ECHO's policies and funded actions, please rate your level of agreement with the following statement:

Most humanitarian aid activities / approaches financed by DG ECHO transition into the next phase of development after DG ECHO humanitarian aid funding has ended (e.g. transition from relief to rehabilitation or from humanitarian aid to development).

between 1 and 1 choices

Not at all

To some extent

To a a large extent

Fully

Don't know

52 Which factors are leading to increased sustainability of DG ECHO's funded actions?

Improving linkages with development actors. Work on Resilience. Attention to the 'triple' nexus. NB. humanitarian aid is often given in the context of repeated cycles of conflict, hindering the sustainability of ECHO's funded actions.

Visibility

53 How would you rate the level of awareness of DG ECHO's activities within the EU?

- High (i.e. ECHO humanitarian aid activities are well known by the general public)
- Medium (i.e. ECHO humanitarian aid activities are well known by a limited part of the general public)
- Low (i.e. ECHO humanitarian aid activities are well known by a specialised audience with an interest in humanitarian aid)
- Extremely low (i.e. ECHO humanitarian aid activities are known by the community involved with them, e.g. partners, NGOs, etc.)
- I don't know

54 How would you rate the level of awareness of ECHO activities outside the EU (i.e. in beneficiary countries)?

- High (i.e. ECHO humanitarian aid activities are well known by the general public)
- Medium (i.e. ECHO humanitarian aid activities are well known by a limited part of the general public)
- Low (i.e. ECHO humanitarian aid activities are well known by a specialised audience with an interest in humanitarian aid)
- Extremely low (i.e. ECHO humanitarian aid activities are known by the community involved with them, e.g. partners, NGOs, etc.)
- I don't know

55 Please elaborate on your rating relating to visibility

ECHO humanitarian aid activities are well known to the humanitarian community; EU humanitarian action is known to the general public to an extent. However, the general public doesn't seem familiar specifically with ECHO.

B. Follow-up to DG ECHO's international commitments and global humanitarian challenges

This section of the questionnaire focuses on assessing the implications of <u>the World Humanitarian</u> <u>Summit</u>, <u>the Grand Bargain</u> and other international commitments for DG ECHO's strategic direction and operating framework. This analysis is also expected to consider the main challenges and opportunities globally in humanitarian aid delivery and how these could be taken on board by DG ECHO at policy and operational level.

In the next sections, we further introduce the key issues under each question and have added specific sets of questions to be answered as part of this OPC.

DG ECHO's international commitments

World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) core responsibility areas and commitments

Following the WHS, the EU proposed a total of <u>100 commitments</u> concerning policies, programmes and funds which fall under its responsibility.

These 100 commitments are grouped in seven key areas:

- 1. Political leadership to prevent and end conflict
- 2. Upholding the norms that safeguard humanity
- 3. Leave no one behind: A commitment to address forced displacement
- 4. Women and girls: Catalysing action to achieve gender equality
- 5. Changing people's lives: From delivering aid to ending needs
- 6. Natural disasters and climate change: Managing risks and crises differently
- 7. Financing: Investing in humanity

The EU also submitted its first self-assessment reports on progress in the implementation of its commitments in March 2017. These reports are available on the dedicated <u>UN database (PACT)</u>

56 Based on your knowledge and experience with DG ECHO's policies and funded actions, please rate your level of agreement with the following statement:

DG ECHO is contributing to progress on the EU commitments

between 1 and 1 choices

- Not at all
- To some extent
- To a large extent
- E Fully
- Don't know

57 In which of the seven main areas listed above have you witnessed DG ECHO making most progress? Please identify your **top three** and make a ranking from 1 (most progress) to 3 (less progress)

	1	2	3
Political leadership to prevent and end conflict	0	0	\bigcirc
Upholding the norms that safeguard humanity	0	0	\odot
Leave no one behind: A commitment to address forced displacement	0	۲	\odot
Women and girls: Catalysing action to achieve gender equality	۲	0	\odot
Changing people's lives: From delivering aid to ending needs	0	0	۲
Natural disasters and climate change: Managing risks and crises differently	0		0
Financing: Investing in humanity	0	0	\bigcirc

58 What further initiatives should DG ECHO take to ensure adequate follow up to the WHS to transform the commitments into reality?

Fully embrace the WHS and Grand Bargain commitments, including needs-based approach by supporting pooled funds, multi-annual planning and funding, support local actors and less earmarking.

Grand Bargain

The <u>Grand Bargain</u> (GB) initiative was launched at the WHS and aims at tackling the funding gap in humanitarian action, estimated by the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing to be as high as USD15 billion. To achieve this, the GB includes 10 commitments:

- 1. Greater transparency
- 2. Improve cost-effectiveness of humanitarian aid
- 3. Introduce new forms of financing
- 4. Localisation of aid
- 5. Needs assessments
- 6. Include people in decision making which affects their lives
- 7. Multi-annual collaborative funding
- 8. Harmonise and simplify reporting requirements
- 9. Enhance engagement between humanitarian and development actors
- 10. Reduced earmarking of funding

59 In terms of what role ECHO should or should not take in the global process of implementing the Grand Bargain, please rate your level of agreement with each of the below statements. ECHO should:

	Not at all	To some extent	To a large extent	Fully	Don't know
Focus on working with EU Member States towards the implementation of the Grand Bargain	0	۲	O	۲	0

Concentrate on working with larger donors to advance the aid efficiency agenda	\bigcirc	0	0	۲	0
Integrate the work on the Grand Bargain with other policy initiatives such as GHD, the New Way of Working and an overall UN reform	0	0	0	۲	0
Lead by example in terms of implementing Grand Bargain commitments	O	O	0	۲	0
Use its leverage as one of the biggest humanitarian donors to pressure its counterparts to implement their commitments	0	0	0	۲	0
Focus on specific work streams within the Grand Bargain	0	0	۲	0	0
Insist on the Grand Bargain being implemented as a package, including the quid-pro-quo between different constituencies	0	0	0	۲	0
Launch pilot initiatives to test how to best implement the Grand Bargain commitments	0	O	۲	O	0

60 Please select the top 5 of most important actions to be taken, ranking them from 1 (most important) to 5 (less important)

	1	2	3	4	5
Focus on working with EU Member States towards the implementation of the Grand Bargain	۲	0	0	0	0
Concentrate on working with larger donors to advance the aid efficiency agenda		0	۲	0	0
Integrate the work on the Grand Bargain with other policy initiatives such as GHD, the New Way of Working and an overall UN reform		0		0	0
Lead by example in terms of implementing Grand Bargain commitments	۲	0		0	0
Use its leverage as one of the biggest humanitarian donors to pressure its counterparts to implement their commitments	۲	۲	0	0	
Focus on specific work streams within the Grand Bargain	۲	۲	0	۲	0
Insist on the Grand Bargain being implemented as a package, including the quid-pro-quo between different constituencies	۲	0	0	0	0
Launch pilot initiatives to test how to best implement the Grand Bargain commitments	۲	0	0	0	۲

61 How should ECHO provide added value regarding the implementation of the Grand Bargain? *300 character(s) maximum*

Continue work on needs-assessment workstream, look for interlinkages with other relevant workstream such a transparency and reporting requirements. Show leadership on Grand Bargain implementation, support quid pro quo character of the Grand Bargain.

62 What specific actions should ECHO plan to carry out under the GB commitments? Please specify the commitment concerned and elaborate on the action.

300 character(s) maximum

See nr. 58.

DG ECHO's international commitments

In the first phase of the comprehensive evaluation, several key issues arising in the global humanitarian aid sector have been identified on which DG ECHO may need to take action on. These key issues are listed below.

63 Which of the below are the most important upcoming issues to be addressed by DG ECHO? Select and rank the five most important ones from 1 (most important) to 5 (less important)

	1	2	3	4	5
Emergence of new donors and the extent to which these operate according to the humanitarian principles and IHL	0		0	۲	۲
Emergence of new technologies and the need to ensure quick and full uptake of these in humanitarian aid actions	O		0	0	0
Changing character of crises (increasingly becoming protracted) and changing geographies (e.g. Middle East due to the Syria crisis)	0	\odot	0	0	0
Increased need for protection of humanitarian workers, ensuring better protection, access, security, etc.	۲	0	O	۲	۲
Increased need for 'remote access modalities'	۲	۲	۲	۲	۲
The risk that funding levels from other key traditional donors may decrease	۲	۲	0	0	۲
Increasing role of business in humanitarian aid and the extent to which it is suitable and desirable to work and establish partnership with private sector for the delivery of humanitarian aid	0	0	0	0	0
Increasing humanitarian needs in urbanised settings	۲	\odot	0	۲	۲
Increased need for interventions focussing on the integration of refugees and displaced persons	۲	۲	۲	0	۲
Increased links with national governments and other national stakeholders	۲	0	0	۲	۲

64 Please explain your reasons for prioritising the five challenges as above and indicate how you feel these should be addressed by DG ECHO

The collective leverage the EU and its MSs have, could be put to better use regarding humanitarian advocacy (access, safely humanitarian workers, etc.). The same goes for operating in accordance with IHL and humanitarian principles (part of the Humanitarian Aid Consensus) Given the field presence of ECHO, remote access modalities could be a topic were ECHO could shares lessons learned and best practices with EU MSs. EU's global role in migration and refugee flows asks for interventions focusing on the integration of refugees and displaced persons.

65 In addition to those listed above, are there any further global humanitarian challenges which are to be considered by DG ECHO?

66 Are there any further adjoining policy areas, beyond those related to Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD), with which DG ECHO should seek to further establishing links? If yes, which are those?

67 Are there any further topics that you feel should be addressed by DG ECHO in future?

C. Final Comments

68 Please provide here any additional comments to aspects that you feel were not covered by the questionnaire.

1000 character(s) maximum

Document upload and final comments

69 Please feel free to upload a concise document, such as a position paper. The maximal file size is 1MB.

Please note that the uploaded document will be published alongside your response to the questionnaire which is the essential input to this open public consultation. The document is an optional complement and serves as additional background reading to better understand your position.

Thank you for your contribution!

Contact

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