



European Commission
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR HUMANITARIAN AID
AND CIVIL PROTECTION
(DG ECHO)

Operational Guidance for funding proposals
in Kenya, 2013

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This Operational Guidance is prepared in relation to the Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) and specifically for Kenya.

RATIONALE

DG ECHO's strategic objective included in the regional HIP for 2013 for the Horn of Africa (HoA) is:

People affected by crisis, whether man-made or natural, **are assisted** in a timely and principled fashion and offered adequate protection through humanitarian assistance, including improved emergency preparedness **as well as strengthened resilience**.

For Kenya, this strategy will be more specifically targeting:

a) Refugees and host communities:

Provision of multi-sectoral assistance, with a focus on life-saving services and protection for the most vulnerable groups including new arrivals from Somalia.

b) Vulnerable populations in disaster/crisis affected/prone areas of the country:

Saving lives will imply a focus on saving lives through a set of multi-sectoral interventions which are based on analysis drawing from sound needs assessments or/and regular surveillance focusing on underlying causes of undernutrition. Protecting livelihoods is also considered through supporting populations affected by weather hazards to safeguard essential livelihood assets and/or stabilizing conditions to promote rehabilitation and restoration of self reliance.

Given all uncertainties in 2013¹, DG ECHO strategy remains flexible and subject to changes if the evolution of the humanitarian situation requires.

The present document has been prepared in order to complement the overall framework of DG ECHO strategy and to guide discussions with partners seeking DG ECHO funding support. It identifies operational recommendations in health, nutrition, water & sanitation, and food assistance/ food security and livelihoods, aiming to increase the impact and coherence of the proposed interventions.

The inclusion of the operational recommendations in a proposal to DG ECHO does not imply a warranty for funding. Every proposal will be appraised on a case by case basis, in view of the prevailing context and the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA)². The recommendations are complementing DG ECHO policies and guidelines provided as comprehensive list in annex 1.

¹ These uncertainties are mainly related to three factors: the performance of the rainy seasons; the regional consequences of the Somali crisis; the March 2013 Elections and the Devolution process.

² Helpdesk for partners is available at: <http://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu>

2. OVERALL PRINCIPLES

A set of overall principles will guide DG ECHO support when addressing the needs of refugees and local communities in the HoA:

- **The humanitarian principles** of neutrality, impartiality, humanity and independence, in line with the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid³, remain paramount for DG ECHO.
- **The safe and secure provision of aid:** the ability to safely deliver assistance to all areas must be preserved. DG ECHO requests its partners to include in the project proposal information on how safety and security of staff and assets are being considered; identification and analysis of threats and plans to mitigate and limit exposure to risks when required. DG ECHO or its partners can request the suspension of ongoing actions as a result of serious threats to the safety of staff⁴
- **Do-no-harm:** in order to minimize unintended and/or detrimental implications of inappropriately designed or poorly implemented actions, partners should as a minimum requirement respect the ‘do-no-harm’ principle.
- **Mainstreaming of basic protection principles** is a way forward to implement this approach and also extends the commitment of safe and equal access to assistance as well as the need for special measures to ensure access for particularly vulnerable groups. All proposals MUST demonstrate integration of these principles, not only in section 5.3. of the Single Form, but also in its substantive sections, i.e. the logical framework, activity descriptions, etc.
- **Accountability:** Despite operational constraints leading to a reduced presence in the field, partners remain accountable for their operations and should therefore ensure the following: (accountability towards donor and beneficiaries)
 - A system enabling management and monitoring of operations
 - A system to report on activities and outcomes
- **Strengthening sector / coordination mechanisms:** Partners should provide specific information on their active engagement in sector and inter-sector coordination: participation in coordination mechanisms at different levels, especially at district/county level, not only in terms of meetings but also in terms of joint field assessments and engagement in technical groups.
- **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) mainstreaming:** As part of the commitment of DG ECHO to mainstream disaster risk reduction in its humanitarian operations, the needs assessment presented in the Single Form should reflect the exposure and the vulnerability of the targeted population to natural hazards such as drought, floods, epidemics, etc. This analysis should be used as a base to introduce relevant disaster risk reduction activities at local level. This risk informed programming, across sectors, should (i) include options for a range of activities at different stages of the drought cycle; (ii) consider contingency amounts for additional or expanded activities that may be required during the drought; (iii) insure that project staff have the skills and training required to implement both development and humanitarian activities as circumstances dictate; and (iv) insure that information from specialised external

⁴ http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/humanitarian_aid/r13008_en.htm

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/about/actors/fpa/fact_sheets_final_en.pdf.

or internal early warning systems is incorporated into programme decision-making, even where the programme's focus is not working directly on response to hazards.

- **Multi-sectorial/Integrated approaches:** Whenever possible, multi-sectorial/integrated approaches with multi- or cross-sectoral programming of responses are encouraged to maximize impact, synergies and cost-effectiveness. Partners are requested to provide information on how their actions are integrated with other actors present in the same area. To be noted that proposals to ECHO do not have to be multisectoral, but that the approach should be sought for through complementarity with funds from other donors or other partners active in the area, calling for comprehensive stakeholders analysis when designing and proposing interventions.
- **Community-based approach:** In all sectors, interventions should adopt, wherever possible, a community-based approach in terms of defining viable options to effectively help increasing resilience and meeting basic needs among the most vulnerable. This includes the identification of critical needs as prioritized by the communities, and the transfer of appropriate knowledge and resources.
- **Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD):** LRRD processes will continue to be supported, particularly in relation to i) increasing interest of development partners and Governments on nutrition issues; ii) seeking for more sustainable solutions for refugees (access to education, innovative approach toward strengthening self-resilience, etc.); iii) Integrate a disaster risk reduction approach and in particular a drought risk reduction approach for interventions. In that regard, DG ECHO partners should indicate how they will increase ownership and capacity of local actors whenever possible: community mobilization, gradual transfer of responsibilities to counties administration or relevant line ministries. Actions targeting resilience should align on national policies and other development instruments in place.
- **Quality of commodities:**
 - In all health and nutrition projects the quality of drugs should be ensured in accordance with ECHO FPA procurement procedures (see updated list of ECHO recognized humanitarian procurement centres - HPC). Furthermore, attention needs to be given to proper storage and handling of medical commodities
 - Quality of nutritional products needs to be closely followed-up. This also includes issues related to storage and handling.
- **Free access to health and nutritional interventions** (supported by DG ECHO)

3. CONTEXT

2013 in Kenya will be characterised by elections⁵. The post elections violence experienced in Kenya in 2008 has revealed the urgency to address grass roots unsolved issues, such as wealth redistribution, land tenure, ethnic driven governance, ect. The newly adopted constitution has paved the way for changes but implementation presents substantial challenges and potential for tensions. According to scenario developed in the elections preparedness exercise led by the Government of Kenya, localised conflicts may erupt either related to the Presidential elections but also to the redefinition of county boundaries and devolution process. This most likely scenario estimates the potential affected population to 400,000 individuals⁶ including 150,000 displaced.

In the Arid Lands of northern Kenya, whilst the humanitarian situation has overall improved following two good rainy seasons (the short rainy season of 2011/2 and the long rains of 2012), 2.1 million people are still food insecure in the Northern part of Kenya. Acute malnutrition rates have historically been high in these areas, with significant seasonal peaks and variations between years depending mainly on the rainy season performances. Humanitarian response is slowly moving from former in-kind food aid to more appropriate multi sectoral responses including safety nets.

The relatively good rains of 2012 mainly due to El Nino effect have contributed to the decrease of the GAM rate in most parts of the Arid and the Semi Arid Lands. Malnutrition rates remain around emergency thresholds in Mandera, Wajir and part of Turkana. Pastoralist livelihood, as a result of, under development , demographic pressure, commercialisation and repeated droughts is receding with around half of the population in arid lands having dropped out from their traditional livelihood. This population have mainly settled in more urban/ semi-urban situations often with limited opportunity to start new ways of living. In addition to these ex-pastoralists are those that have not yet 'dropped out', but have few livestock holdings and are highly vulnerable to drought. In this current situation, partners will be expected to target these two most vulnerable groups to any shock, often using aid as a livelihood strategy. Actions proposed could complement safety net mechanisms or extend them when required.

In addition to the priority areas of the arid Counties, other potential shocks could occur in Kenya, not least the potential for conflicts in an election year, and the possibility of epidemics and rapid onset emergencies, e.g. flooding related to forecasted El Nino. In a context of high food prices and relatively high inflation rates, vulnerability to shocks are likely to remain high.

Finally, the new government following the coming elections combined with the devoluted responsibilities will shape a new coordination framework in Kenya. Hence, progress on the Global Alliance further steps to the resilience agenda is to be expected the second semester.

Regarding refugees living in Kenya, the country currently hosts more than 600,000 refugees, the vast majority coming from Somalia. In 2011, the influx of refugees increased with more than 160,000 new arrivals. The needs of new arrivals were particularly severe as most Somalis fled a combination of conflict and drought, with famine declared in 6 areas of south Somalia at the

⁵ Presidential elections planned dates: 04 March 2013

⁶ **Inter agency elections contingency planning, Draft 1, Dec 2012**

height of the crisis. Malnutrition rates remain above emergency thresholds with corresponding high mortality particularly in the newer camps.

The high number of refugees makes basic care and maintenance assistance a challenge in itself. There is a need to review existing care and maintenance assistance with a view to innovation, efficiency and self-sufficiency as per the Operations Continuity Program, while at the same time considering surrounding host communities. Following the Kenyan military operation into south Somalia, insecurity increased in the whole of north-eastern province and particularly in and around the Dadaab refugees camps. Non-essential assistance were suspended and a new security regime is being put in place. There is a need for partners to be able to adapt to a continued fluid security conditions, and increase their capacity for implementation despite adverse operating conditions, implying greater involvement of local communities in formulation of programme strategies and implementation.

4. OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The DG ECHO strategy in Kenya falls under three pillars:

- Emergency preparedness and response (EP&R) ;
- Support to refugees and host communities.
- Contribution to building the resilience of the health system to deliver nutrition services; and if funding allows, a multi-sectoral approach to resilience building of vulnerable communities to drought ;

4.1. Emergency preparedness and response

DG ECHO will support specific actions for Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R) in order to:

- (i) enhance emergency response capacity of humanitarian actors;
- (ii) support the development of contingency plans by all stakeholders; and
- (iii) provide a response to the most critical life-saving needs in key sectors.

DG ECHO response will focus on **life-saving and asset protecting activities** in the areas affected by exogenous shocks, e.g. infectious disease outbreaks, natural disasters, acute food&nut emergency, etc and those directly affected by conflict, e.g. elections related violence, resources based conflicts. To enhance the timeliness of response, DG ECHO will seek increasing efficient funding mechanisms via NGO Consortia, International organizations and UN-Agencies.

Health and Nutrition	<p>Support to epidemic outbreak interventions can be considered in case the country on itself cannot deal with it. Only organizations with proven track records in the implementation of this kind of activities will be eligible for support. An analysis of the scale of the outbreak vis-à-vis the capacity of the national authorities and its partners will be requested. Potential support to activities relating to outbreak investigation, outbreak control, and case management should be prioritized.</p> <p>Direct provision or support to emergency health (including aspects of mental health care) and nutritional services in case of major disasters overwhelming the national capacity. Nutritional interventions should only include internationally and nationally recognized and proven effective curative and preventative measures addressing moderate and severe acute malnutrition.</p>
Food Security & Livelihood support	<p>All food assistance interventions must be compliant with the EU's Communication on Humanitarian Food Assistance⁷.</p> <p>Food assistance interventions will be supported to save lives and to protect productive assets as a response to new displacements or to severe transitory food insecurity due to natural and/or man-made disasters. Food assistance transfers may be in-kind or as cash/ vouchers. Partners should provide a robust response analysis, including a market assessment, to justify which</p>

⁷ Annex I – List of DG ECHO policies and guidelines

	<p>modality is chosen.</p> <p>Emergency animal health can be supported in response to significant disease outbreaks, and where livestock are proven to be a vital asset for the most vulnerable people and shall be triggered by a stronger surveillance system, that should be supported through capacity building of the relevant authorities in the context of the new Bill against CAHW.</p> <p>Seeds and other agricultural inputs (in-kind or through vouchers) will be considered in response to acute emergencies in which affected communities have lost the means of production (such as through displacement). Supporting seed security through existing market mechanisms will be expected after the acute emergency phase is over.</p>
WASH	<p>support to preparedness and response through short term emergency water supply, sanitation, and hygiene promotion activities in order to minimize the risks of increased morbidity and mortality due to lack of water and/or water-related diseases⁸.</p> <p>Water trucking should only be considered as a last resort life saving intervention requiring a clear and concrete exit strategy such as the parallel rehabilitation of an existing water sources</p> <p>WASH activities have a complementary value in order to control/prevent the spread of epidemics like Acute Watery Diarrhoea (Cholera). Therefore, WASH activities might be linked to AWD response operation should needs on the ground deems it necessary.</p>
Protection	<p>Specific protection activities will be considered in response to displacement or humanitarian consequences of conflict.</p>
Coordination	<p>Activities aiming at contingency planning, building capacities in EP&R of humanitarian actors / relevant authorities and stock prepositioning will be considered, especially in light of elections and the devolution process. Security activities enhancing coordination and risk management will be considered.</p>

4.2 Support to the refugees and host communities

The refugee situation remains uncertain. There are certainly the potential for further large influxes, but possibly also a small window of opportunity for return. ECHO funded actions will have to be able to adapt and revise planned responses depending on the developing context. If any support to return becomes feasible, such support must include that movements are voluntary, safe, informed and sustainable.

- Priority will continue to be given to actions addressing basic life-saving services – in Dadaab refugee camps and for specific gaps in basic life-saving services in Kakuma refugee camp.
- Partners that can demonstrate a comparative advantage in terms of quality, efficiency, innovation and/or access will be prioritised.
- Emphasis will continue to be given to strengthening of protection for vulnerable groups of refugees – either through vertical or horizontal (mainstreamed) activities.
- Food security will be prioritised in order to stabilise and improve nutritional status through most appropriate modality. Partners will be required to provide a response analysis in this respect.

⁸ In principle, a large quantity of reasonably safe water is preferred to small quantities of high quality water.

- Emergency preparedness to address and control disease outbreaks; to assist new arrivals and to respond to changed population movements will be given priority.
- Risk management and contingency plans will be required for all actions in Dadaab refugee camps.

Innovations and alternative solutions to the world biggest protracted refugee situation will be welcomed. These could include exploring the increased involvement of Kenyan line departments in service provision; support ways of further economic integration between refugees and host communities – ultimately increasing the net benefit for host communities; etc. In that perspective, partners are encouraged to explore LRRD opportunities with developments funding (DG DEVCO Thematic budget lines, 11th EDF, etc)

Food Security & Livelihood support	Only short term food security and livelihood support (such as distribution of livelihood inputs and services) may be supported, principally to strengthen essential coping capacities and opportunities. This should be done on the basis of defined and documented needs.
	Distribution of in-kind food assistance (GFD) will continue to be an essential life-saving response to refugees. However, cash or vouchers may be used, particularly for complementary food needs such as fresh food, on the basis of a well articulated response analysis including a market assessment. Vouchers for milling may also be considered in order to avoid erosion of the value of transfers, based on a sound analysis.
	For all food assistance interventions, emphasis will be placed on improved targeting and quality monitoring which will mitigate the risks of the reduction of the rations. Regular verification exercises are required to minimise exclusion and inclusion errors.
Health	Proper access to and usage of quality life-saving health interventions will be supported in Dadaab refugee camps and possibly considered in Kakuma provided that serious gaps are identified. A package of primary and secondary health services will be prioritized, along with epidemic outbreak prevention and control activities.
	In all health projects the quality of drugs should be ensured in accordance with ECHO FPA procedures (see updated list of ECHO recognized humanitarian procurement centres -HPC).
	Access to health through DG ECHO supported projects should remain free of charge ⁹ .
	Mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS activities in line with the DG ECHO HIV guidelines will be expected from all DG ECHO supported projects.
Nutrition	Prevention and treatment of severe and moderate acute malnutrition of MAM and SAM for < 5 years olds and PLW, in accordance with internationally and nationally recognized standards.
WASH	ECHO will support activities aiming at a) the reduction of water loss and control of the water networks ; b) responding to additional needs of an increased existing refugee population. Operational care & maintenance will only be considered a priority in cases of resource shortfalls and/or where directly linked to minimising wastage and/or environmental impacts.
	In order to avoid misunderstandings and rejection by the beneficiaries, a single latrine design should be adopted involving the direct participation of the users in both design and construction.
Protection	Specific protection activities reducing the risk, mitigating the impact of, or addressing particular protection needs can be supported provided that they

⁹ In accordance with internationally accepted guidelines such as WHO/UN, MSF, Sphere, etc.

	<p><u>designed in the context of a humanitarian emergency rather than to address a structural problem linked to cultural practices or systemic problems.</u> These could include the following types of activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Assistance to victims of protection violations including sexual and gender based violence. In providing victim assistance ensuring access to needed medical and psycho-social assistance is essential, and support to legal aid can be considered when contextually feasible. 2) Information management such as registration and protection of newly arrived refugees; protection monitoring, displacement monitoring and profiling. 3) Child protection, particularly activities addressing separation of children and families; and activities addressing psycho-social needs of children affected by conflict/displacement. 4) Support to durable solutions – activities addressing protection issues linked to e.g. repatriation/return. 5) Community-based protection interventions – activities aiming to increase the self-protection mechanisms of communities affected by conflict/displacement.
Security	Security activities can be considered for funding when helping access to the target populations by the Humanitarian Community.

4.3 Contribution to resilience

"Resilience is the ability of an individual, a household, a community, a country or a region to withstand, adapt and to quickly recover from stresses and shocks¹⁰"

What about SHARE, the EU initiative towards resilience in Horn of Africa? The centre of building resilience lies in aligning humanitarian and development processes. A boost to this approach is that the commission has recently been working towards harnessing its activities that are implemented by two of its services, ECHO and DEVCO¹. The initiative is referred to as Supporting the Horn of Africa Resilience (SHARE). The objective of the SHARE initiative is to enhance resilience through an integrated recovery support with strong link between humanitarian and long-term development interventions (LRRD). Therefore, maximum efforts will be employed for ensuring the coordination between the SHARE initiative and the ECHO resilience programming in the targeted areas. SHARE is designed as a medium term response to the 2011 Horn of Africa drought which will be complemented by long term interventions from the upcoming 11th EDF.

4.3.1 Contribution to resilience building of the health system to deliver nutrition services

The **ECHO approach to building the resilience of the health system** will be guided by the following recommendations:

- a) Response to the critical gap in analysis/operational research

¹⁰ See EU Communication on Resilience: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/food-security/documents/20121003-comm_en.pdf

Continued efforts to gain a better understanding of basic/underlying factors of undernutrition (causal analysis) as well as the effectiveness of ongoing response interventions is needed to guide the approach and remodel intervention strategies as needed¹¹. These efforts might entail:

- Indepth medical/social assessment (anamnesis) of undernourished patients/families ;
- Stocktaking of the level of functioning of basic services ;
- Documentation and reinforcing linkages in between different programs/interventions ;
- Stakeholders' analysis needs to be done before the start of the intervention.

b) Continued support to nutrition specific activities

DG ECHO will continue to support interventions aiming at further integrating nutritional interventions (HINI) to become an integral part of the health system.

Special attention will be given to the design of mechanisms that can be triggered in case of (nutritional) emergencies and which decrease the need for external support (system resilience).

Enhanced coordination with development donors on joint programming should go along with pursuing advocacy for greater investment from the GoK and development partners towards the effective integration of HINI. The recent involvement of DEVCO, USAID in lieu of OFDA and the WB in nutrition specific activities are of the outcomes already gained.

Health and Nutrition	To ensure coherence and synergies of nutrition programmes, it is important to align nutrition actions with the existing country's Food and Nutrition Security Policy, National Nutrition Action Plan, and guidelines on integrated management of acute malnutrition.
	Capacity building (of local health actors/mechanisms) in the fields of logistics, emergency scale up/down, quality of services and supervision is a cornerstone for integration of HINI into the health system
	Only internationally and nationally recognized (evidence based) and effective curative and preventative measures addressing moderate and severe acute malnutrition during emergencies.
	Efforts to integrate nutritional interventions into the basic package of healthcare need to be well planned and balanced with the package of other essential services (e.g. vaccination), this based on needs/local context. Coordination by/with local health authorities and development partners is mandatory for success.
	Advocacy for (health) systems support by development partners should be guided by documented evidence of shortfalls or needs.
	Target groups for HINI are children below the age of five years, and pregnant and lactating women.
	Nutritional interventions, and in particular decisions to scale-up/down, should be guided by data. Activities to improve the availability, quality and utilisations of such data are encouraged (e.g. nutrition survey /assessments/support to District Health Information System).
	Prioritise (in line with causal analysis) infant and young child feeding (IYCF) activities in management of acute malnutrition.
	ECHO will continue advocating for further linkages between nutrition and programmes in other sectors (e.g. food; wash; social

¹¹ Causal analysis will also be addressed through EU Delegation project funded under SHARE initiative

	protection;..). Partners applying for ECHO funding will have to highlight such linkages within their proposed actions or with other actions funded/implemented by other partners/donors.
Food Security & Livelihood support	Any nutrition specific intervention should aim at reinforcing the linkage between food assistance and nutrition.
WASH	Support of rain catchment installation at health facility level
	Public health education
Coordination	Capacity building of relevant local authorities in EP&R

4.3.2 Contribute to Building Resilience to Drought of the most Vulnerable Communities in the Arid Lands of Kenya.

The **SHARE** initiative will entail the following components in Kenya:

- i. **Integrated nutrition services** focusing on mother and child malnutrition in ASALs (ECHO / DEVCO).
- ii. **Ensure medium to long term perspective to the interventions led by DG ECHO** that has been engaged in drought preparedness initiatives across the region since 2006 with a total budget of €70 million under the Regional Drought Decision or RDD (DEVCO) including **integrated multi sector support** for most vulnerable drought affected people in the 10 Arid Lands districts (ECHO).
- iii. **Complement on-going and planned interventions funded by the 10th EDF Kenya Rural Development Programme (KRDP) as well as 10th EDF Water Facility projects** (DEVCO).
- iv. **Pave the way for implementation of future sector reform programmes** in support to ASAL such as the 10th EDF REGAIN programme under preparation and possible interventions under 11th EDF (DEVCO/ECHO).
- v. **Integrate with major donors interventions.** SHARE Kenya will develop synergies on a local basis with DfID funded Hunger Safety Net and will coordinate with other planned actions (WB Agriculture Recovery Project, USAID Kenya Dry lands Action Plan) (DEVCO / ECHO).
- vi. **Strengthen regional coordination.** SHARE Kenya will align with Global Alliance regional mechanisms and will develop complementarities with EU funded in neighbouring countries (DEVCO).

The IGAD Common Regional Programming Framework and the Country Program Papers frameworks should greatly contribute to design longer terms plans to address drought and resilience issues.

Under this framework, DG ECHO is currently funding, in addition to nutrition specific activities, an integrated multi sector programme targeting the 10 Arid Lands districts. **Greater investment in this multi sector approach would be welcome if additional funding is allocated to Kenya in the course of 2013.**

In case of funds being available, partners would be expected to provide:

- a well articulated **situation analysis**, including an understanding of the changes in livelihood patterns in the arid lands of Kenya, livelihood profiling nutrition causal analysis and wealth profiling;
- **Risk analysis:** exposure to shocks, vulnerabilities, coping and adaptive capacities;

- **A Strategic plan** detailing how the partner(s) intend to cover the important sectors of health, water and sanitation, nutrition, food security and livelihoods in a manner that is proportional and justified by the situation and risk analysis.

Health and Nutrition	<p>Access to primary healthcare is a cornerstone of a resilient community. Evidence about proper access should be documented through an initial assessment and be followed up closely during the intervention. In case of lack of access, partners need to propose solutions to improve on it, including but not limited to, advocacy at the level of government and developing partners.</p>
	<p>Supporting county governments to prioritise nutrition in their plans. The ASAL districts are targetted to benefit from constitutionally provided for 'EQUALISATION FUND' which among other things will address existing disparities in social and economic conditions between ASAL counties and the rest of the country. This is a good opportunity to highlight persistently poor nutrition and health outcomes in these areas through advocacy and strategic planning by nutrition stakeholders, to position nutrition as a key concern in achieving accelerated development in ASAL counties. The capacity to plan, position and push for nutrition specific and sensitive programmes and activities can be achieved through structured nutrition technical forums that are existing in most of ASAL counties.</p>
	<p>The community health strategy is largely absent in ASAL areas. It is important to prioritise community mobilisation and participation in strategies and activities focussing on health and nutrition prevention measures. The IYCN, health and nutrition education, immunization coverage are among interventions that would benefit a great deal if the community strategy was to be implemented in the ASAL areas. Partners could help county and local governments in strengthening the community strategy to enhance health and nutrition prevention measures and therefore reduce the high cost of curative interventions that weigh heavily on the national health system and , which further erodes the capacity of households and communities to build resilience.</p>
Food Security & Livelihood support	<p>Building robust and sustainable livelihoods of the most vulnerable households is an essential theme in drought resilience. An understanding of vulnerability across wealth must be clearly articulated together with livelihood profiles and a clear identification of target groups. Livelihood support efforts should be based on a clear response analysis. Improved access to food through income generation will be considered.</p>
	<p>Proposals to improve food security with clear links to nutrition outcomes will be supported. Environmental protection should be integrated into FSL actions to promote environmental security for the future.</p>
	<p>Agricultural inputs (seeds etc) and livestock interventions should aim to strengthen market function as well as to have a positive impact on target communities. For example, seed provision should strengthen seed security by working with private sector providers through the market.</p>
	<p>ECHO will encourage efforts for an improved analysis on the impact and adequacy of food assistance responses. In this sense, ECHO will support studies/analysis aiming to improve the food security monitoring</p>

	and/or to gain understanding on the evolution of the livelihoods, particularly in the Arid Lands ¹² .
	Partners are requested to mainstream DRR approaches into all activities. Food assistance will be considered in the event of shock(s) impacting on food security. In-kind and/ or cash/ vouchers can be considered based on a sound response analysis included a market assessment. Resource transfers should be linked as far as possible with longer-term social protection programmes such as the HSNP.
	Advocacy towards development donors and relevant gvt bodies for nutrition and conflict sensitivity in all programming in rural development / food security programming.
	All FSL actions should be compliant with the EU's Communication on Humanitarian Food Assistance.
WASH	Natural resources management will be prioritised.
Coordination	A specific attention to coordination at local level should be sought in any DG ECHO funded action to strengthen linkage with national level (DMI, NDMA) but, at first, ensure voices of communities at district/county level. This is especially relevant in light of the coming power decentralisation / devolution counties will go through in 2013.

5. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Providing visibility for the European Commission is not an option, it is a contractual obligation in the context of humanitarian projects financed by the European taxpayer. The basic visibility rule is that the partner must add the visual identity of the European Commission Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection, wherever their own logo is being displayed, in the field or elsewhere.

Communication activities are optional but strongly recommended. Basic communication entails highlighting or at least, acknowledging, the European Commission as the donor in media interviews, press releases, or any other situation where the partner communicates about a funded project. ECHO is however encouraging partners to be more creative and strategic when it comes to communication actions. This can be achieved with the technical support of the Regional Information Office in Nairobi.

In Kenya, media access is fairly open, which means journalists can easily travel to visit projects. Many foreign correspondents, including European journalists, are based in Nairobi and ECHO strongly recommends international journalists be invited on press trips that cover ECHO-funded projects.

One of the pillars of ECHO's work in Kenya contributes to resilience. Communication and Advocacy actions succinctly demonstrating the objective of this and other operations pillars described in these guidelines are encouraged. Specifically, communication and advocacy actions aiming at encouraging **joint analysis leading to joint programming between humanitarian and long-term development interventions** will be expected.

¹² The use of specific tools such as Emergency Market Mapping Analysis (EMMA) or Market Information and Food Insecurity Response Analysis (MIFIRA) might also be supported by ECHO.

Partners can allocate 0.5% of the direct eligible costs of an action, with a maximum of € 8,000, to **visibility, information and communication**. ECHO may question the rationale of committing the entire budget to visibility only with no communication actions.

Exceptionally, larger communication actions can be funded, such as when the partner has communication experience and expertise, and is keen to exploit the benefits of joint actions and visibility or when the partner wishes to propose an impact-oriented communication activity such as a media campaign or video news productions. Such actions may be jointly envisaged and implemented in order to increase impact.

In addition to providing support, ECHO technical staff can provide sound bites and quotes for multimedia and text products produced by partners. Such products are also promoted through ECHO's website and social media platforms. The partner should contact ECHO Regional Information Officer when designing such activity.

Partners should include, with the **final report for liquidation**, supporting documents such as photos of stickers on vehicles and signboards, photos of “branded” visibility items (T-shirts, caps etc.) and copies of video productions, press releases, photo slideshows, press cuttings, etc.

For further information, the Regional Information Officer at ECHO Office in Nairobi (Kenya) can be contacted (tel +254 20 297 2000); or write to Malini Morzaria (malini.morzaria@echofield.eu) and Martin Karimi (martin.karimi@echofield.eu).

6. ANNEXES

Annex I - List of DG ECHO policies and guidelines – last update December 2012

Food assistance	http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/Food_Assistance_Comm.pdf
Cash and vouchers	http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/sectoral/cash_en.htm
Protection	http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/sectoral/protection_en.htm
Children in Conflict	http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/sectoral/children_en.htm
Emergency medical assistance	http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/sectoral/health_en.htm
Civil –military coordination	http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/sectoral/civil_military_en.htm
Water and sanitation	http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/WASH_SWD.pdf
Visibility	http://ec.europa.eu/echo/partners/humanitarian_aid/visibility_en.htm
Visual identity	http://ec.europa.eu/echo/media/identity_en.ht
Resilience	http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/resilience/resilience_en.htm

Annex II - APPLICANTS CHECK LIST

- The application has been filled in full using the E-Fichop http://ec.europa.eu/echo/about/actors/fpa_en.htm
- The logical framework and the activity schedule of the action (work plan) have been inserted in the proposal
- The application contains a financial overview of the total eligible costs, including both the contribution requested from the European Commission and the co-financing share in EUR.
- A financial overview is also submitted and includes only eligible costs, not in-kind contributions.