

Update on the development of the next ECHO Partnership Certificate

October 2020

The consultation process – 3 years of engagement

2018: launch of the process

The FPA Watch Group conducted an evaluation of the current FPA and develop its <u>position</u> regarding the 6th FPA as basis for discussions for FPA with ECHO (May)

- ECHO launched a series of consultation brainstorming sessions on a set of different topics (VOICE <u>update</u> on the consultation process by Oct 2018)
- End of FPA validity for Swiss members (31/12)

VOICE exchanges with Ms Gariazzo and ECHO DG Pariat and VOICE President's intervention at the Partners conference in favor of differed launch of the new FPA => ! \(\Pi \) 2 years extension of the 2014 FPA

2019: focus on the ex-ante assessment

- VOICE compiled feedback and questions regarding the ex-ante assessment ToR and upon Watch Group's request
- ECHO info session on FPA 2021 (Sept)
- Following exchange with FPA TF, revised and clearer version of ECHO FAQ on ex-ante assessment (Nov)
- Internal EC negotiations with Central Services on future shape of FPA
- <u>Call for Interest</u> ECHO Programmatic Partnership (Jun)
- Launch of ECHO ToR for the ex-ante assessment (Aug)
- Final $\underline{\sf FAQ}$ on the $\underline{\sf TOR}$ after the info-session and webinar

- VOICE Board/President meetings with ECHO management calling for consultations to resume and for meeting between ECHO, NGOs and auditors to be organized
- VOICE Note on proposed timeline for upcoming consultation (Jan)

2020: focus on Covid and future partnership in parallel

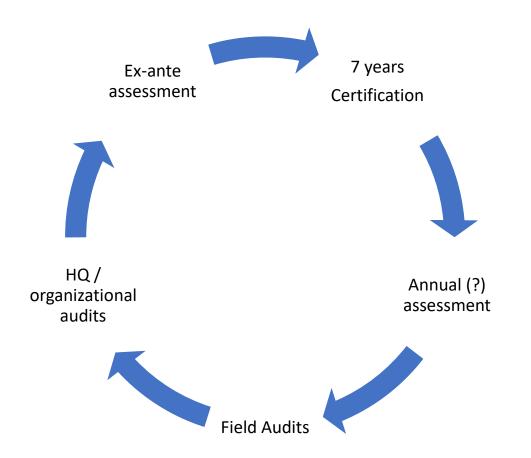
- VOICE/ECHO webinar organized for partners and auditors (Feb)
- Covid-19 guidelines: further questions to ECHO (Apr)
- FPA TF feedback on Certificate (Jul) and on the MGA and e-SF (Aug)
- FPA WG survey on the ex-ante assessment => findings (Aug)
- ECHO presentation to the WG of the Certificates, MGA, eSF => ongoing working group to fine-tune the template « Operational Budget » (Oct)
- ECHO adoption of the 'corporate MGA'; since June, resumed discussions between FPA TF and ECHO (meetings on Certificates, MGA, eSF)
- Publication of <u>three types of Certificates</u> (Sept)
- Screening of NGO ex-ante assessments about 140 NGO applicants
- ECHO trainings (Oct)
- Publication of HIPs (end Oct-Nov)

- Board engagement on Covid-19 impact and <u>VOICE President letter</u> asking for guidance end flexibility (Mar)
- VOICE President meetings with Commissioner Lenarčič, ECHO DG Michou and Ms Gariazzo to support the FPA Watch Group

EU Humanitarian Partnership Certificate



The partnership cycle:



Where do we stand?

- 140 NGO applications (ex-ante assessment reports) sent to ECHO
- <u>Templates of Certificates</u> released (Sept 2020)
- Certificates will be granted before end of the year – confirmed at FPA WG (01.10)
- Frequency and scope of future assessments and audits remain unclear



EU Humanitarian Partnership Certificate 2021-2027 (1)

ECHO Partnership will follow the new European Commission corporate approach and be based on a certification process

- Certificate issued if successful ex-ante assessment (instead of a FPA signed)
 - Have a look at the <u>findings and recommendations</u> of the FPA Watch Group survey on the ex-ante assessment
- Certificates delivered before the end of 2020
 - Have a look at the <u>feedback</u> from the FPA Task Force on the content of the Certificate
- > Once a partner NGO has been granted a Certificate, the NGO will have to sign a **receipt letter** (call for interest to be potentially adapted in the medium-/long-term)



EU Humanitarian Partnership Certificate 2021-2027 (2)

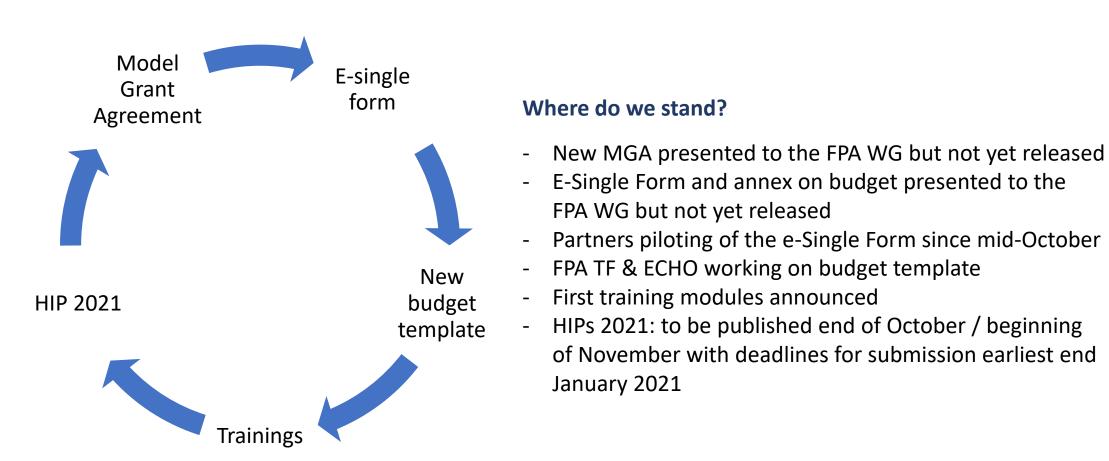
Main changes

- It lasts 7 years = duration of MFF
- > Reduced content compared to the FPA since technically it is not a contract
- New annual reporting to the EC on the implementation of policy related to SEAH and other types of unethical behaviour towards staff, partners, contractors or beneficiaries, illegal employment and intentional environmental damage in accordance with the applicable Commission guidance
- Annual assessment: submission of annual financial statements (to check financial ratios), statement by Legal Representative confirming the conditions under which the certificate was awarded, statement anout exclusion criteria, new inventory of critical audit recommendations and action plan
- ➤ Publication by ECHO of **3 types of Certificates** on <u>ECHO Partners' Website</u> (Partnership Certificate, Niche Partnership Certificate and Programmatic Partnership Certificate)

Model Grant Agreement



The project cycle:





New Model Grant Agreement (1)

- ➤ A new EC **corporate Model Grant Agreement** (MGA) introduced as from 2021 by Commission Decision of 12 June 2020 (C(2020)3759 final) to all EC DGs
- > The MGA template was presented to the FPA Task Force and then to FPA Watch Group but is not released yet
 - Feedback from the Task Force can be found <u>here</u> and questions from the WG <u>there</u>
- > Format is different from the current ECHO Grant Agreement, but the majority of rules are similar
- > New language (imposed by the corporate nature of the template) but continuity of approach
- > Further clarity will be provided in EC corporate guidance in Annotated Grant Agreement (AGA)
- > Annex 5 (specific to ECHO) to reflect the specificities of EU Humanitarian Aid that are not included in the general MGA template
- > Additionally, there will be specific ECHO guidance to complement the AGA
- ➤ MGA to be used for signed contracts as of HIPs 2021



New Model Grant Agreement (2)

The structure

Structure of the MGA (both specific and general conditions)

Terms and Conditions:

Data sheet is the 'specific' part of the agreement

Chapters 1-6 are the 'general' part of the agreement

Annex 1 Description of the action (e-Single Form)

Annex 2 Budget (corporate template)

Annex 3 Accession Form for multi-beneficiary actions

Annex 4 Financial statement model

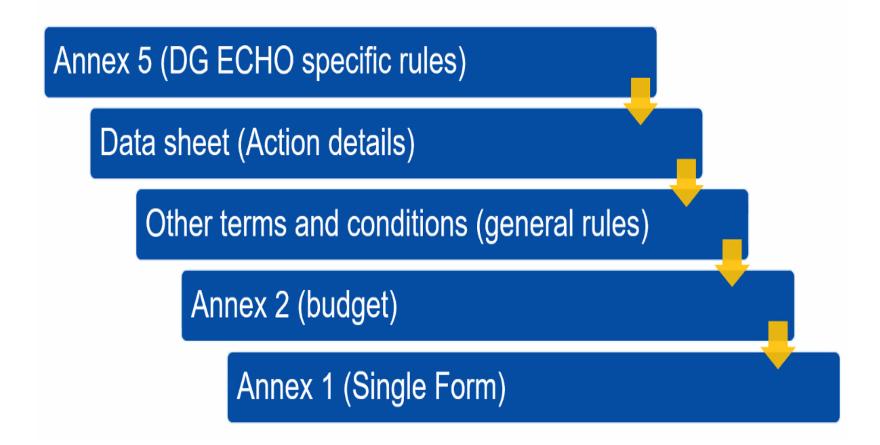
Annex 5 Specific rules for humanitarian aid





New Model Grant Agreement (3)

Legal hierarchy





New Model Grant Agreement (4)

A new terminology

Old terminology	New terminology
(aid) Beneficiaries	Final recipients
Partners	(grant) Beneficiaries
Implementing Partners	Financial Support to third parties
APPEL	Electronic exchange system
Reporting not linked to payment (i.e. interim reports)	Continuous reporting
Reporting linked to payment (i.e. final report)	Periodic reporting
World Wide Decision / HIPs	Financing decisions



New Model Grant Agreement (5)

A new terminology

The legal definition

Beneficiary

A legal entity which has signed the Grant Agreement (as coordinator or co-beneficiary) and therefore is bound by its terms and conditions with regards to the European Union (represented by DG ECHO).

Other participants

Legal entities which carry out some tasks in an action, but which do not sign the Grant Agreement (including entities linked to the beneficiaries). They are not bound by the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement and consequently, DG ECHO has no obligation vis-à-vis them.



New Model Grant Agreement (6)

A new terminology

Two types of MGA

Mono-beneficiary

One certified organisation signs the MGA and is fully responsible for its implementation

Multi-beneficiary (multipartner)

More than one certified organisation sign the MGA, either directly or through an accession form. They are jointly responsible for appropriate implementation of activities and management of funds; after final payment, recoveries will be made directly against the beneficiaries concerned



New Model Grant Agreement (7)

A new terminology

Types of other participants

- Third parties giving in-kind contributions
- Subcontractors: must respect proper implementation, conflict of interest, confidentiality and security, ethics, visibility, Annex 5, information and recordkeeping
- Recipients of financial support: must respect proper implementation, conflict of interest, confidentiality and security, ethics, visibility, Annex 5, information and record-keeping
- Participants with special status: International Organisations and Pillar Assessed Organisations, specific requirements



New Model Grant Agreement (8)

Some new rules and requirements

Main changes (non exhaustive)

- > Justification for financial support to third parties (IPs) above EUR 60.000
- Procurement is simplified = beneficiaries' (i.e. ECHO partners) usual purchasing practices apply
- > One single exchange rate with no possibility of derogation
- Personnel cost calculation (daily rates with a calculation basis of 215 days per year)
- > Field Office Costs based on actual cost or rate of actual use (SPC)
- > Difference between purchases of goods/services and subcontracting
- > Sanctions clause but no request to vet final beneficiaries



New Model Grant Agreement (9)

Some new rules and requirements

The use of financial support to third parties

- Legally speaking, entities which are not part of the Agreement are to be considered as third parties
- 60,000 EUR limit (as per art 204 of the Financial Regulation) not applicable where achieving the objectives of the actions would otherwise be impossible or overly difficult
- DG ECHO is preparing standard justifications to be inserted in Financing Decision, HIP and Single Form



New Model Grant Agreement (10)

Some new rules and requirements

Eligibility conditions for actual costs

- Unchanged provisions
- Eligibility period:
 - eligibility start date corresponds to Action start date
 - after the implementation period, only final report preparation-related costs can be eligible
- Other provisions for unit costs / contributions, flat-rate costs / contribution, lump sums: included in MGA but not used by DG ECHO



New Model Grant Agreement (11)

Some new rules and requirements

Remaining supplies

- Provisions to be detailed in the Partnership 2021 Guidelines
- Donation: DG ECHO prior approval required in all cases
- Updated thresholds: 750 EUR increased to 1.000 EUR; marginal quantity of remaining goods 20%
- Possibility to obtain authorisation to retain equipment and goods requiring expert handling



New Model Grant Agreement (12)

Some new rules and requirements

Reporting

- Pre-financing report: technical part on progress of activities and statement on the use of funds provided (format provided)
- Continuous reporting: to cover interim report (includes budget update), quarterly reports, any additional requested report; timing and conditions specified in MGA
- Periodic reporting: linked to payments, includes updates in the Single Form and financial information
 - Financial statements
 - Linked corporate template and operational template for the explanation on the use of resources
 - Declaration





New Model Grant Agreement (13)

Some new rules and requirements

Amendments

- Possible from MGA signature until final payment
- Budget flexibility is maintained, but other Single Form-related elements need formal changes (i.e. non-essential changes disappear)
- Procedure does not change (via APPEL through MR)
- DG ECHO to provide an answer within 45 days
- · New clause for tacit rejection: no answer from the other party entails rejection



New Model Grant Agreement (14)

Some new rules and requirements

The case of suspension

- MGA foresees possibility for suspension by the organisation (in case of force majeure), but suspension costs are NOT eligible
- Termination of grant if suspension is longer than 1/3 of the duration of the Action no longer applicable
- To be managed as an amendment, to increase duration and adapt Action to changed circumstances



New Model Grant Agreement (15)

Some new rules and requirements

Procurement

- No more dedicated annex: purchase costs for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges) are eligible if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are bought using the organisation's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure purchases with best value for money and that there is no conflict of interests
- Obligation to ensure compliance with the quality standards for medical supplies, devices and food established by the granting authority
- Exceptions to be codified by Partners
- Use of HPC to be detailed in guidance document



New Model Grant Agreement (16)

Next steps?

> DG Legal Service **still introducing certain corrections and changes** to fit all DG needs including some requested by ECHO following exchanges with VOICE and the FPA Task Force

Supporting document:

- Annotated Model Grant Agreement (AGA) developed by Horizon 2020 latest version 26 June 2019 (updated version February 2021, managed by Legal Services)
- DG ECHO specific guidance document on Annex 5 currently under development
- Updated «FPA guidelines» (now Partnership 2021 Guidelines), referring to the entire project cycle, from proposal to audit, including horizontal issues (certification, financing decision, PSEA reporting, etc.)
- Single Form Guidelines under revision
- Visibility Manual



Single Form



Application process

Unchanged process





New Single Form (1)

- First exchange on the e-SF in the summer
 - Have a look at the <u>FPA TF feedback</u> to ECHO
- ➤ New e-Single Form presented to the Watch Group
- > Changes introduced based on ECHO evaluation of the tool and to take into account the recommendations from the European Court of Auditors (ECA)
- On IT development, launching of the testing phase of the new tool in mid-October
- ➤ New operational budget template presented to the Watch Group on-going working group to fine-tune it



New Single Form (2)

Main changes

- > Only one model of the Single Form for emergency action (i.e. simplified and adapted templates are dropped)
- > The **structure and the order** are revised (18 sections instead of 13 chapters)
- > All quantitative information is aggregated in a new section, section 2 (project data overview by country)
- Annex for detailed budget is to (operational budget) be submitted next to the Single Form data (on top of Annex 2 of the MGA)
- > Section 14 on 'Alternative Arrangements' incorporated to keep flexibility despite the corporate approach of the MGA
- > Section 18 summarizing mandatory annexes
- ➤ In **IT terms**, the performance has been increased, more responsive and faster interface, pop-up windows to explain what ECHO is expecting for each of the questions



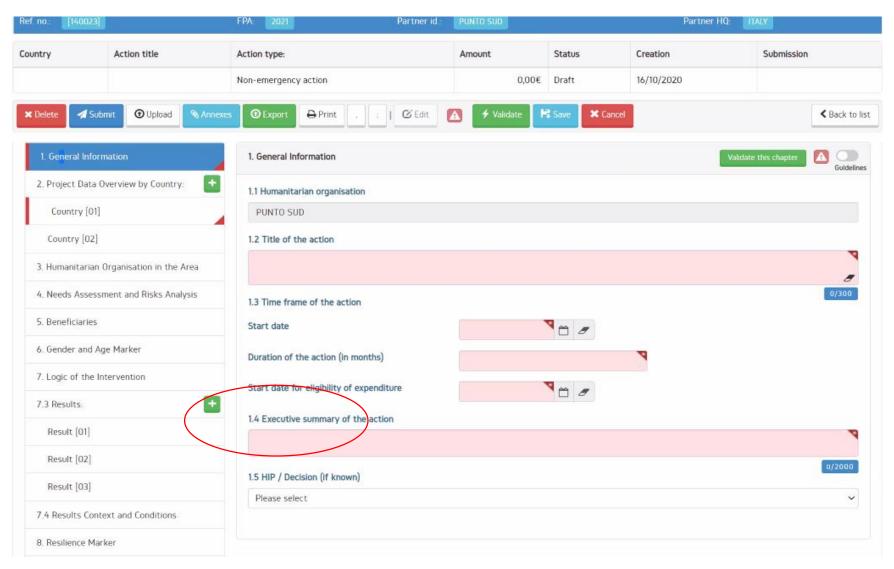
New Single Form (3)

Adaptation of the Single Form structure

Current structure	New structure	
1. General Information 2. Humanitarian Organisation in the Area 3. Needs Assessment and Beneficiaries 4. Logic of the Intervention 4.3 Results 4.4 Results Context and Conditions 5. Quality Markers 6. Implementation 7. Field Coordination 8. Monitoring and Evaluation 9. Visibility, Communication and Information Activities 10. Financial Overview of the Action 11. Requests for Specific Derogation 12. Administrative Information 13. Conclusions and Humanitarian Org. Comments 14. Logframe Legend: New chapter - Divided chapter - Renumbered chapter - Renamed chapter	1. General Information 2. Project Data Overview by Country 3. Humanitarian Organisation in the Area 4. Needs Assessment and Risks Analysis 5. Beneficiaries 6. Gender and Age Marker 7. Logic of the Intervention 7.3 Results 7.4 Results Context and Conditions 8. Resilience 9. Monitoring and Evaluation 10. Implementation 11. Field Coordination 12. Visibility, Communication and Information Activitie 13. Financial Overview of the Action 14. Requests for Specific Derogation 15. Administrative Information 16. Conclusions and Lessons Learned 17. Logframe 18. List of ECHO pre-defined Annexes	

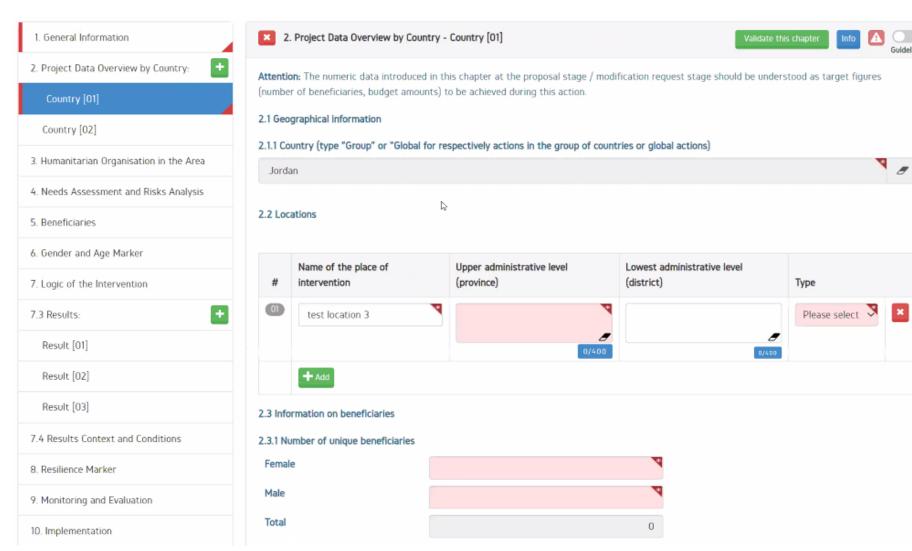


Section 1 General Information





VOICE European humanitarian NGOs. Section 2 Project Data Overview (1)





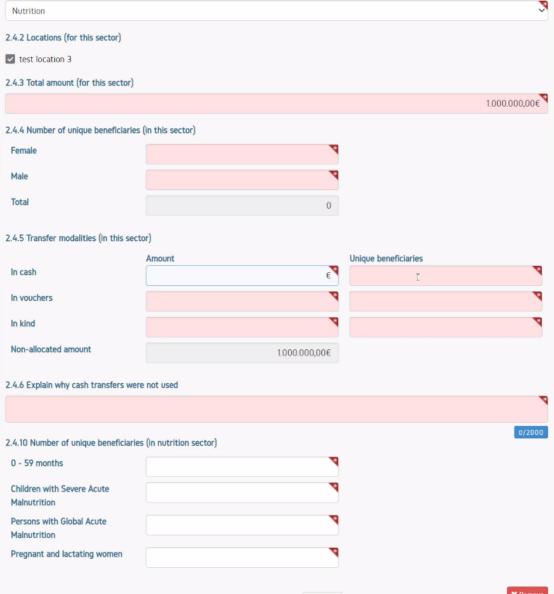
VOICE European humanitarian NGOs. Standing together. Section 2 Project Data Overview (2)

11. Field Coordination
12. Visibility, Communication and Information Activities
13. Financial Overview of the Action
14. Requests for Alternative Arrangements
15. Administrative Information
16. Conclusions and Lessons Learned
17. Logframe
18. List of ECHO Pre-defined Annexes

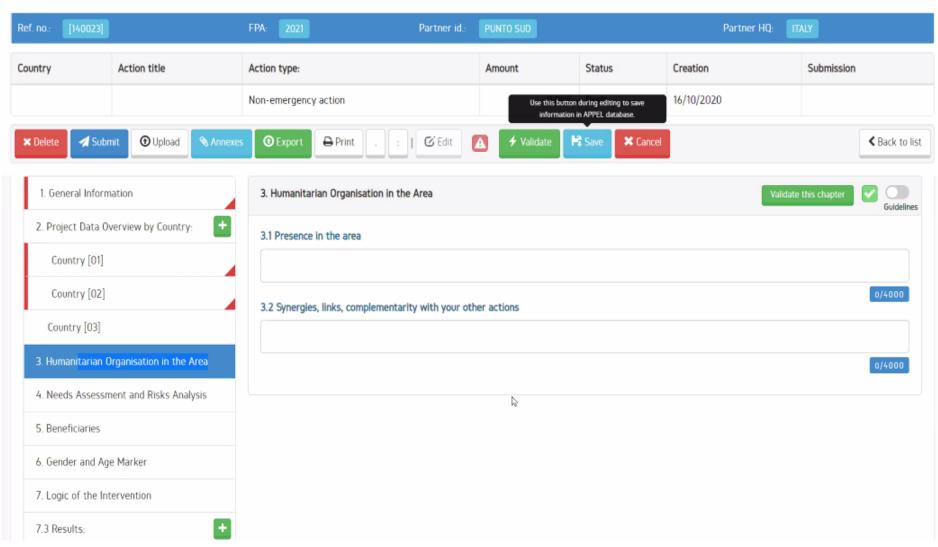
2.3.2 Number of unique beneficiaries b	y sex and age	
	Female	Male
0 - 59 months	4	4
5 - 17 years	V	V
18 - 49 years	4	4
50 years and more	4	4
2.3.3 Number of unique beneficiaries w	ith disabilities	
	Female	Male
	•	*
2.3.4 Number of unique beneficiaries b	y profile	
Local population	4	
Internally displaced	4	
Refugees / asylum seekers	4	
Other persons on the move	V	
Returnees	4	
In camp or camp like	4	
2.3.5 Number of organisations directly	targeted and benefiting from the action	
Local	4	
International	A	



VOICE Section 2 Project Data Overview (3)

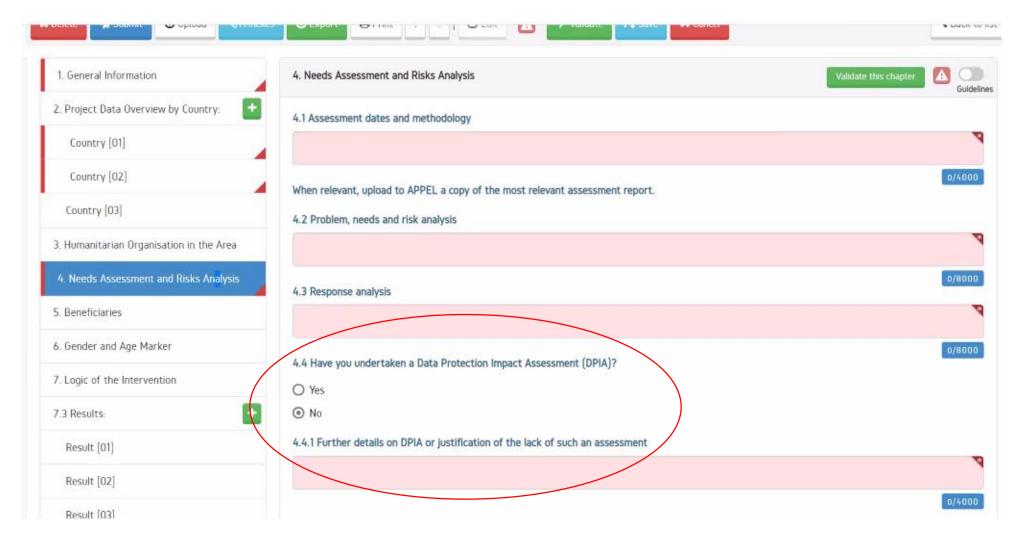








Section 4 Needs Assessment



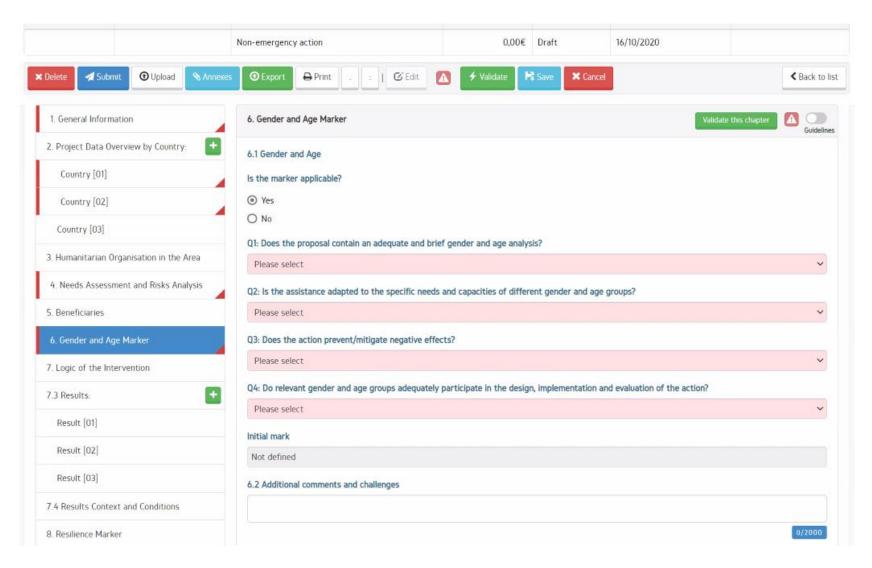


Section 5 Beneficiaries

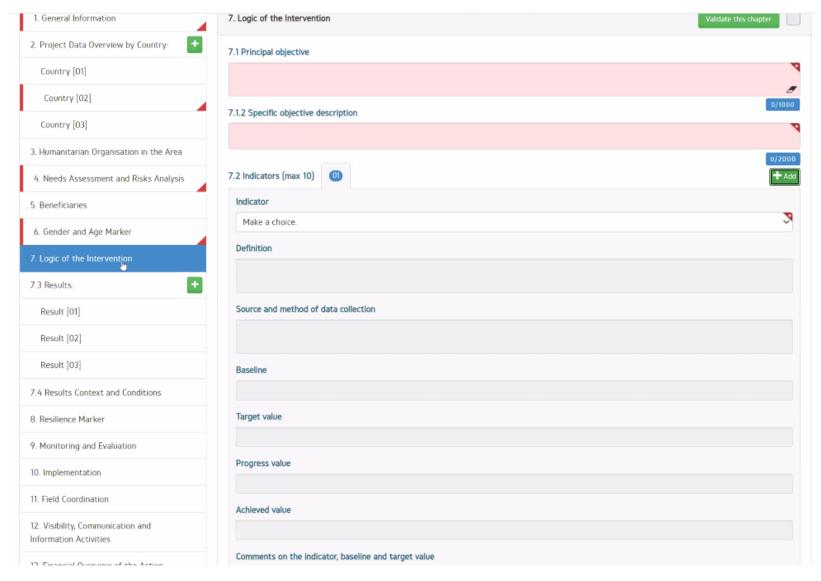
1. General Information	5. Beneficiaries Validate this chapte	Guideline
2. Project Data Overview by Country:	5.1 Beneficiaries - identification criteria	
Country [01]		A
Country [02]	5.2 Involvement of the beneficiaries in the design of / and in the action	0/4000
Country [03]		4
B. Humanitarian Organisation in the Area	E 2 Describe present action provide a consider towarded response for groups as individuals and/or execution provides a	0/4000
4. Needs Assessment and Risks Analysis	5.3 Does the proposed action provide a specific targeted response for groups or individuals and/or specific vulnerabilities?Yes	
5. Beneficiaries	O No	
. Gender and Age Marker	5.3.1 If yes, please select up to 4 relevant groups/vulnerabilities	
. Logic of the Intervention	□ Women	
7.3 Results:	☐ Men ☐ Infants and children under five	
Result [01]	Girls and boys Adolescent girls and boys	
Result [02]	Pregnant and lactating women	
Result [03]	☐ Elderly ☐ Persons with disabilities	
7.4 Results Context and Conditions	☐ Victims of explosive ordinances	
3. Resilience Marker	☐ Marginalised diversity groups	
. Monitoring and Evaluation	5.3.2 Provide justification for selected groups and/or vulnerabilities	
0. Implementation		



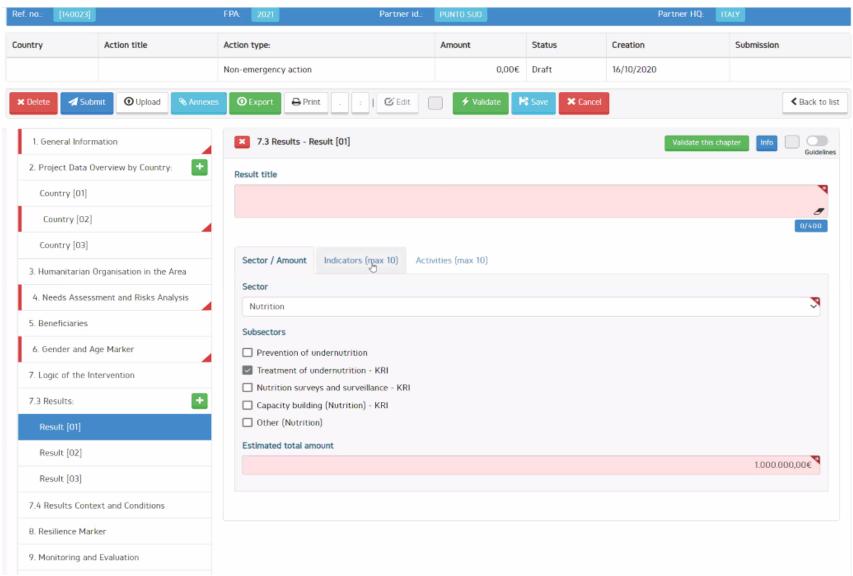
Section 6 Gender and Age Marker



VOICE Section 7 Logic of the Intervention (1)

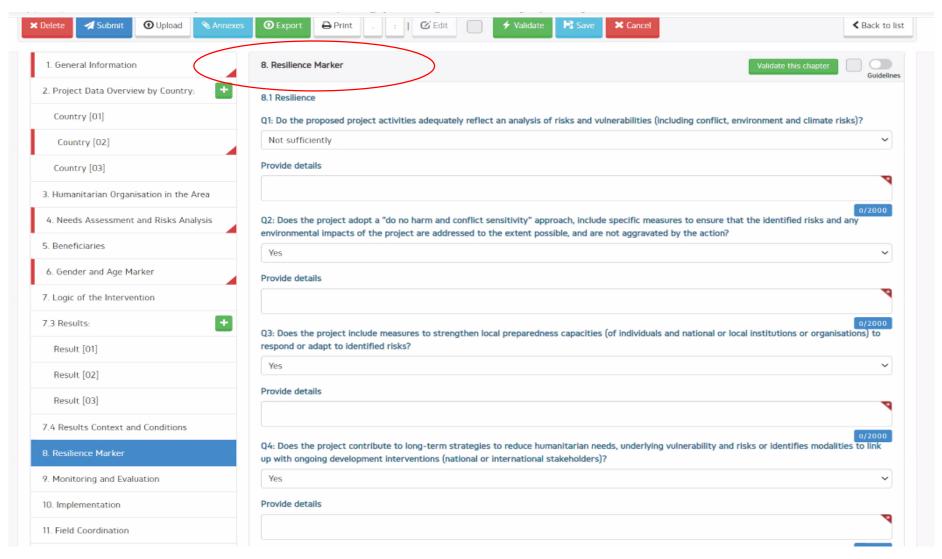


VOICE Section 7 Logic of the Intervention (2) European humanitarian NGOs Section 7 Logic of the Intervention (2)



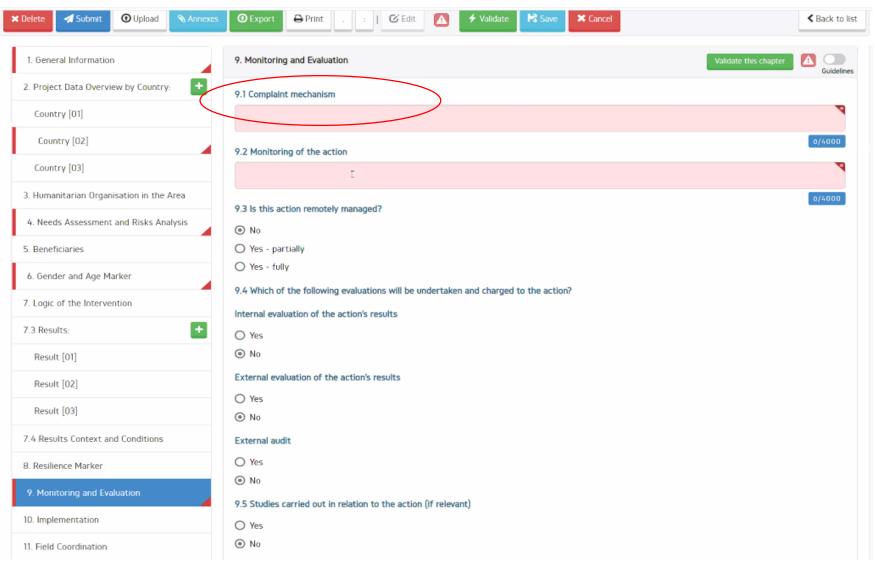


Section 8 Resilience Marker



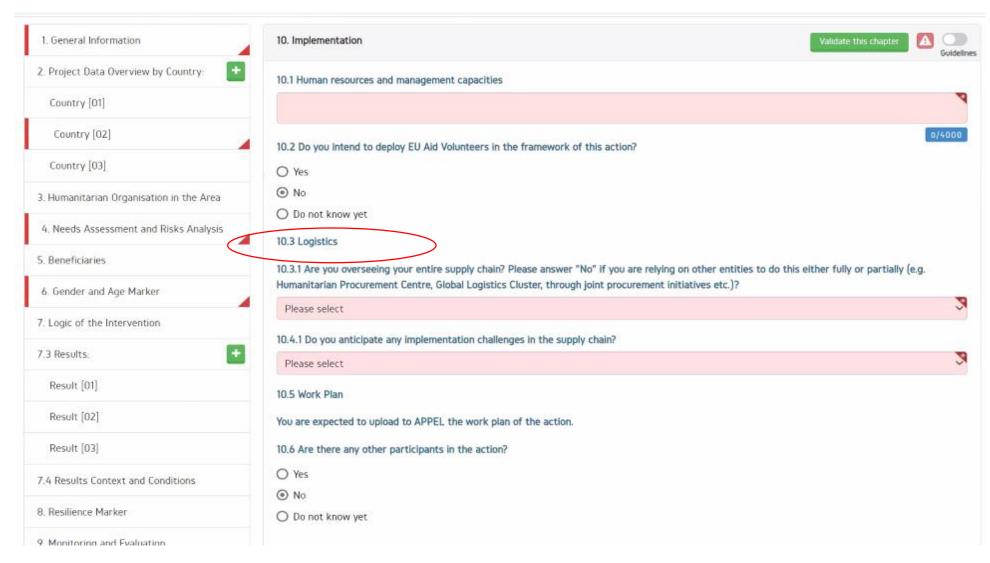


Section 9 M&E



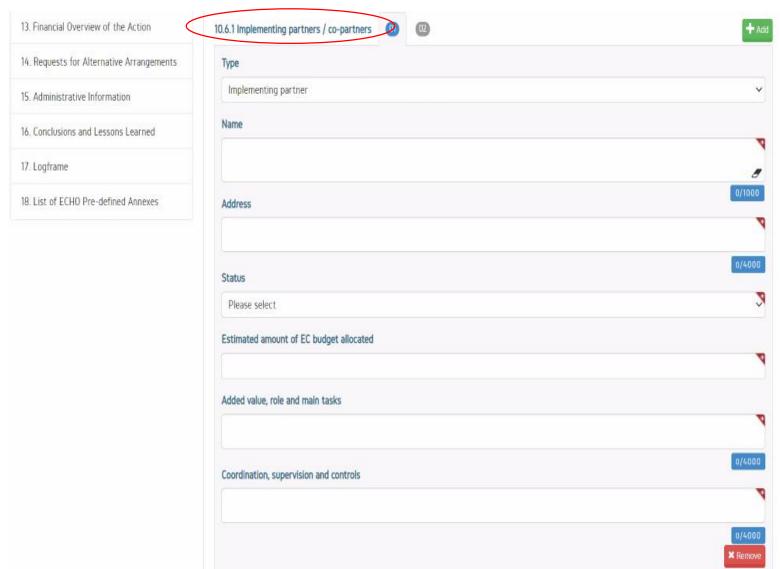


Section 10 Implementation (1)



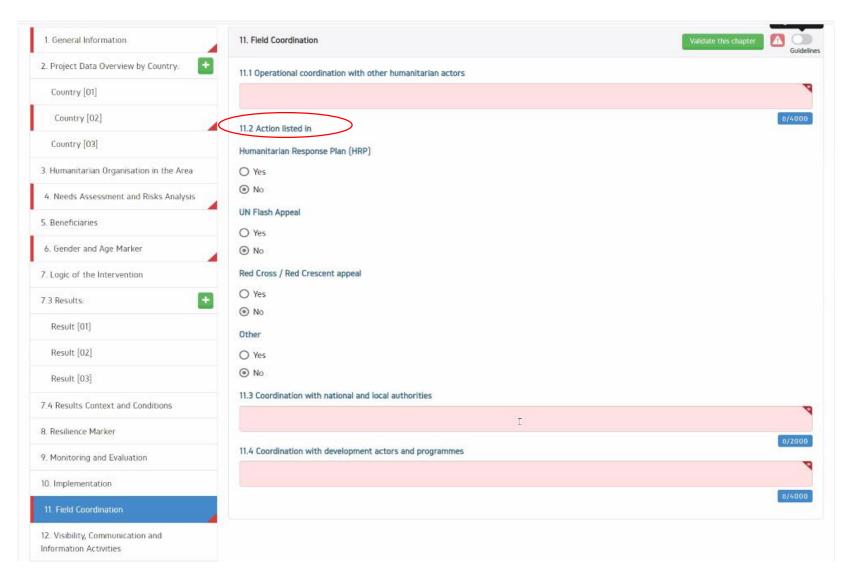


Section 10 Implementation (2)





Section 11 Field Coordination





Section 12 Visibility and Coms (1)

General Information	12. Visibility, Communication and Information Activities Validate this chapter	A Guidelines
Project Data Overview by Country:	12.1 Standard visibility	
Country [01]	A. Compulsory display of EU Humanitarian Aid visual identity on (all points required):	
Country [02]	A1: Building signage (e.g. partner office buildings, health centers, distribution points)	
Country [03]	⊙ Yes	
3. Humanitarian Organisation in the Area	O No A2: Equipment (for e.g. vehicles, water tanks, containers)	
4. Needs Assessment and Risks Analysis	Yes	
5. Beneficiaries	○ No	
6. Gender and Age Marker	A3: Shipments and goods for distribution as part of the humanitarian response (e.g. blankets, sacks, tents, buckets, hygiene kits, debit cards)	
7. Logic of the Intervention	Yes No	
7.3 Results:	A4: Branding of the operational materials/outreach materials addressing beneficiaries (e.g. training materials, flyers, notebooks, posters etc.)	
Result [01]	Yes	
Result [02]	O No	
Result [03]	A5: Clothing items worn by project staff (e.g. T-shirts, field vests, caps) Yes	
7.4 Results Context and Conditions	O No	
8. Resilience Marker	Attention: For all categories mentioned above, the emblem is to be displayed in a way that clearly highlights EU humanitarian aid as a donor.	
Monitoring and Evaluation	Provide a justification if any of the above Compulsory Display of EU Humanitarian Aid visual identity items will be not implemented:	-
10. Implementation		
11. Field Coordination	B. External communication of EU funding and partnership through (select at least 5 points):	0/3000
12. Visibility, Communication and Information Activities	B1: Press releases, press conference, other media outreach O Yes	
13. Financial Overview of the Action	NoB2: Videos	



Section 12 Visibility and Coms (2)

11. Field Coordination	B. External communication of EU funding and partnership through (select at least 5 points):
12. Visibility, Communication and Information Activities	B1: Press releases, press conference, other media outreach O Yes
13. Financial Overview of the Action	No B2: Videos
14. Requests for Alternative Arrangements	
15. Administrative Information	
16. Conclusions and Lessons Learned	B3: Photos
7. Logframe	○ Yes No
8. List of ECHO Pre-defined Annexes	B4: Human interest stories with visuals
	○ Yes ② No
	B5: Social media posts
	○ Yes No
	B6: Events
	○ Yes⑤ No
	B7: Print materials (e.g. brochures, factsheets etc.)
	○ Yes⑤ No
	B8: Others
	○ Yes
	⊙ No

12.2 Do you foresee communication actions that go beyond standard obligations?

O Standard visibility, information and communication activities

Above-standard, visibility, information and communication activities

You are expected to upload to APPEL detailed communication plan, following this template:

- https://www.dgechopartners-helpdesk.eu/download/referencedocumentfile/58



Section 13 Financial Overview (1)

2. Project Data Overview by Country:	13.1 Estimated costs					
Country [01]		Initial budget	Revised budget	Interim report Incurred costs	Final report incurred costs	[RCI] Final update
3. Humanitarian Organisation in the Area	Total direct eligible costs	1,000,000,00€	1,000,000,00€		1.000.000.00€	1.000.000,00€
4. Needs Assessment and Risks Analysis						
5. Beneficiaries	% of indirect costs (max 7%)	7,0%	7,0%		7,0%	7,09
5. Gender and Age Marker	Amount of indirect costs (cut after 2nd decimal)	70 000,00€	70.000,00€	0,00€	70.000,00€	70.000,000
7. Logic of the Intervention	Total costs	1.070.000,00€	1.070.000,00€	900,0	1.070.000,00€	1.070.000,000
7.3 Results:			·			
Result [01]	13.2 Percentage of direct elig		A STATE OF THE PARTY OF T			
Result [02]		Initial budget	Revised budget	Interim report incurred costs	Final report incurred costs	
7.4 Results Context and Conditions	% of support costs	1,00%	1,00%		1,00%	
8. Resilience Marker	13.3 Funding of action					
	13.3 Funding of action	Initial budget	Revised budget		Final budget	[RCI] Final update
7. Monitoring and Evaluation	13.3 Funding of action Direct revenue of the	Initial budget 0.00€	The Brokeston -		Final budget 0.00€	
Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation	Direct revenue of the action		Revised budget 0,00€		-	
2. Monitoring and Evaluation 10. Implementation 11. Field Coordination	Direct revenue of the		The Brokeston -		-	[RCI] Final update
2. Monitoring and Evaluation 10. Implementation 11. Field Coordination 12. Visibility, Communication and	Direct revenue of the action Contribution by applicant Contribution by other	0,00€	0,00€		0,00€	0,00 50.000,00
3. Resilience Marker 7. Monitoring and Evaluation 10. Implementation 11. Field Coordination 12. Visibility, Communication and information Activities 13. Financial Overview of the Action	Direct revenue of the action Contribution by applicant Contribution by other donors	0,00€ 50.000,00€	0,00€ 50.000,00€		0,00€ 50.000,00€ 20.000,00€	50.000,000 20.000,000
2. Monitoring and Evaluation 10. Implementation 11. Field Coordination 12. Visibility, Communication and Information Activities	Direct revenue of the action Contribution by applicant Contribution by other	0,00€ 50.000,00€	0,00€ 50.000,00€		0,00€ 50.000,00€	50.000,000
2. Monitoring and Evaluation 10. Implementation 11. Field Coordination 12. Visibility, Communication and Information Activities 13. Financial Overview of the Action	Direct revenue of the action Contribution by applicant Contribution by other donors Contribution by	0,00€ 50.000,00€	0,00€ 50.000,00€		0,00€ 50.000,00€ 20.000,00€	50.000,000 20.000,000
7. Monitoring and Evaluation 10. Implementation 11. Field Coordination 12. Visibility, Communication and Information Activities 13. Financial Overview of the Action 14. Requests for Alternative Arrangements	Direct revenue of the action Contribution by applicant Contribution by other donors Contribution by beneficiaries Contribution requested	0,00€ 50.000,00€ 20.000,00€	0,00€ 50.000,00€ 20.000,00€		0,00€ 50.000,00€ 20.000,00€	0,000 50.000,000 20.000,000



Section 13 Financial Overview (2)

13.6 Contribution in kind
Testing eSF for FPA 2021 ChC
13.7 Financial contributions by other donors
Testing eSF for FPA 2021 ChC
13.8 VAT exemption granted (including to the implementing partners)?
● Yes
○ No
O Do not know yet
13.8.1 Details on VAT exemption (mandatory if the answer is "No" or "Do not know yet")
Testing eSF for FP在 2021 ChC
13.9 [FIN] VAT charged to project (including via the implementing partners)?
○ No
13.9.1 [FIN] Reasons and amount of TVA charged to project
Testing eSF for FPA 2021 ChC FR
13.10 Do you intend to involve and charge HQ staff costs to project?
○ Yes
No No
13.11 [FIN] Did you charge HQ staff costs to project?
Yes
○ No
13.11.1 [FIN] Details on HQ staff costs charged to project
Testing eSF for FPA 2021 ChC FR
13.12 [FIN] Were there any remaining goods?



13.13.1 [FIN] Details on the equipment charged to the project at full price

Testing eSF for FPA 2021 ChC FR

13.13.2 [FIN] You are expected to upload to APPEL the list of equipment fully charged to action, the list of remaining goods, the list of low value equipment.

13.14 [FIN] General ledger

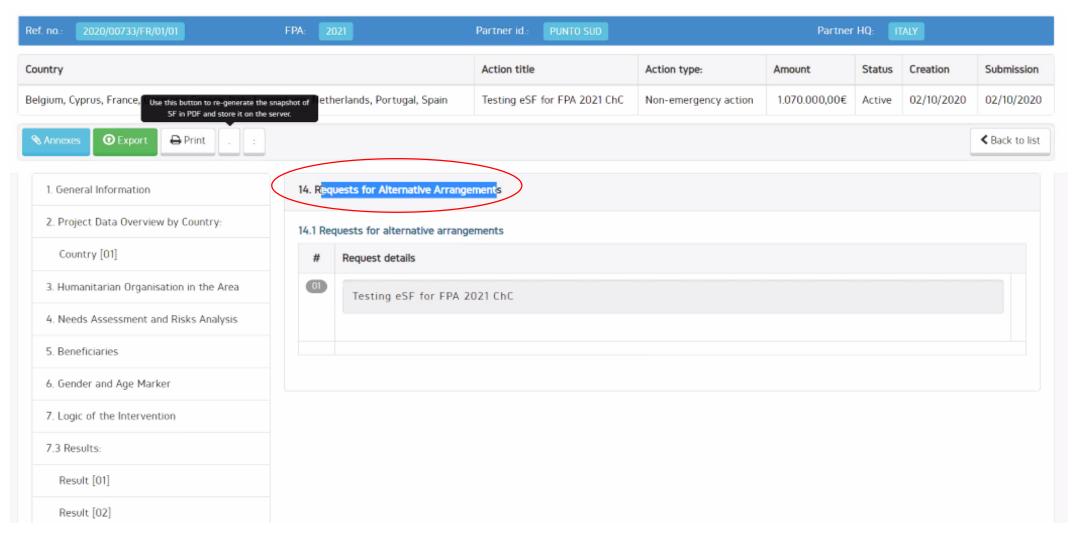
You are expected to upload to APPEL the general ledger. If general ledger contains expenditures outside of the eligibility period add a column and justify them.

13.16 [FIN] The organisation confirms that the co-financing has not led to a double funding of the activity

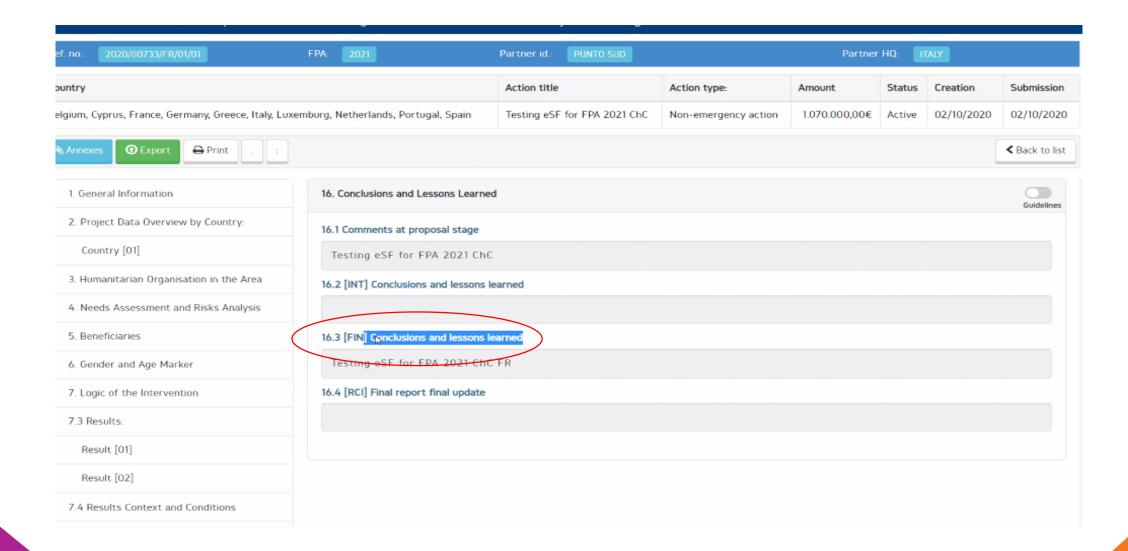
Yes



VOICE Section 14 Alternative Arrangements Standing together.

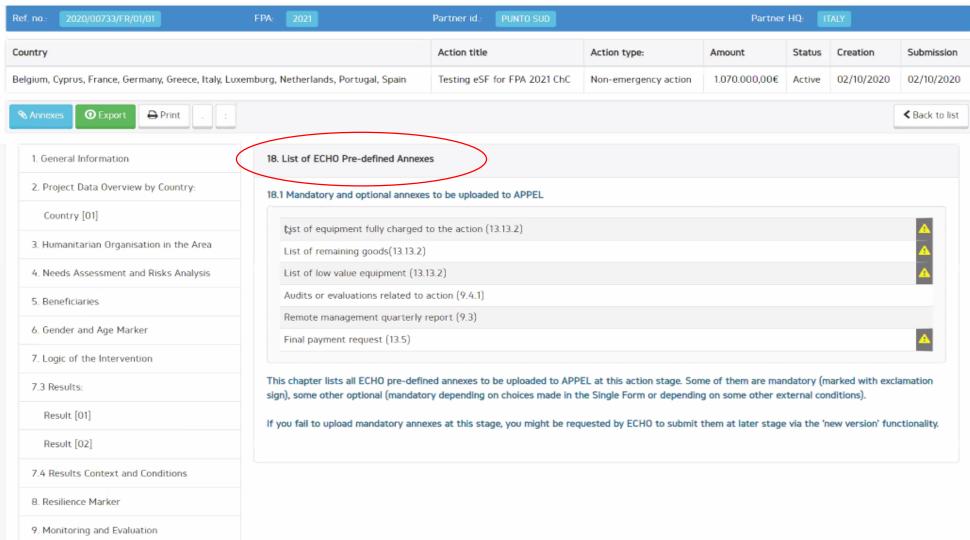


VOICE Section 16 Conclusions and Lessons Standing together.





Section 18 Annexes





Budget(s)

- To answer to requests/recommendations from the Court of Auditors:
 - Properly assessing the costs necessity and cost efficiency of the interventions (eligibility criteria)
 - Better comparability whenever relevant, so as to take the appropriate decision
 - Replacement of section 10.2 (support costs ratio), which has proven inefficient
- To ease contract management
 - To handle in a more efficient and speedy manner liquidations (avoid cumbersome exchanges after submission of final reports)
- Help NGOs filling the new additional financial annex (Commission's budget template)

Template





Next steps

- > Feedback from partners testing the tools to be incorporated in the e-SF
- > Budget template to be finalized
- > ECHO to share final tool with partners in November (world version requested)
- > Training sessions by Punto Sud
- ➤ Change of e-SF on APPEL in January 2021



Transition & HIPs 2021

- For the **2020 Budget**: still new actions and top-ups of existing actions under the current Single Form and with the current Grant Agreement
- For the **2021 Budget**: use of the new Single-Form and MGA (in principle no MR for on-going actions to avoid parallel systems for too long)
- ➤ HIPs 2021 to be released in the coming weeks deadlines for proposals not before end of January
 - Preparatory work not on the current Single Form → no possibility to transfer proposals from current Single Form system to new one
- Case by case review at desk level to limit discontinuity of aid
- For **UK entities**, new MFF not available for them (Brexit) = only top-ups on the 2020 Budget
- For **Pilot Programmatic Partnerships actions**, 2021 and 2022 allocations on the current Single Form



The Future Partnership Agreement: Main observations based on cross-cutting issues

Diversity:

> 140 NGO applications: a solid diversity of partners should be maintained for the next partnership cycle

Consortium:

> The new MGA allows for sharing responsibility among certified partners when working in consortia

Working with implementing partners:

> ECHO will develop guidelines in the technical annexes of HIPs to simplify partners' request when working with IP at proposal stage

Changes vs Stability:

➤ A new approach through certification process and new contracting template (i.e. MGA) but stability of tools : HIPs and e-Single Form

Simplification:

➤ Little evidence of simplification — on the contrary more questions requested at proposal stage; the Watch Group will monitor whether this translates into less questions raised at negotiation and liquidation stages



Going forward: what to do next? Get prepared!

- ➤ Register to upcoming trainings on the ELSE platform https://else.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/learn
 - Course: « The Certification 2021: What's new? »
- ➤ <u>CI EU Funding Teams</u> and <u>EU Meeting Point</u> on CARE Shares
- ➤ HIPs 2021 and their technical annexes soon to be published on APPEL https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/appel/welcome/
- ➤ HIPs presentation will be accompanied by a short presentation of the new partnership framework; Dates of meetings will be announced in country and on ECHO website
 https://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding-evaluations/funding-for-humanitarian-aid/consultations-partners-financing-decisions en