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ANNEX I

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the Special Measure in favour of the people of Myanmar for 2022

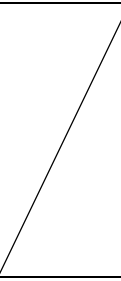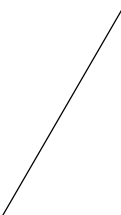**Action Document for EU Nexus Response Mechanism**

ANNUAL MEASURE
This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title **CRIS/OPSYS** **business reference** **Basic Act**	**EU Nexus Response Mechanism** OPSYS number: ACT-61186 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in Myanmar/Burma and to a certain extent in neighbouring countries impacted by the Myanmar crisis
4. Programming document	Special measure in the absence of a MIP
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	N/A
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority area 1: Governance and Peace
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): 16. Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: 1. No Poverty; 2 Zero Hunger; 3; Good health and well being; 5. Gender Equality; 6 Clean water and Sanitation; 10. Reduced Inequalities
8 a) DAC code(s)	15150 – Democratic participation and civil society 20% 15160 – Human Rights. 20% 15220 - Civilian peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution. 20% 72010 – Material relief assistance and services. 40%
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	N/A

9. Targets	☒ Migration ☐ Climate ☒ Social inclusion and Human Development ☒ Gender ☐ Biodiversity ☐ Education ☒ Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers **(from DAC form)**	**General policy objective** @	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Participation development/good governance	☐	☒	☐
	Aid to environment @	☒	☐	☐
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	☐	☒	☐
	Trade development	☒	☐	☐
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	☒	☐	☐
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	☐	☒	☐
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	☐	☒	☐
	Nutrition @	☒	☐	☐
	RIO Convention markers	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Biological diversity @	☒	☐	☐
	Combat desertification @	☒	☐	☐
	Climate change mitigation @	☒	☐	☐
	Climate change adaptation @	☒	☐	☐
11. Internal markers and Tags:	**Policy objectives**	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Digitalisation @	☒	☐	☐
		YES	NO	
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒	
	Connectivity @	☒	☐	☐
		YES	NO	
	digital connectivity energy transport health	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	☒ ☒ ☒ ☒	

	education and research			
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	☐	☒	☐
	Reduction of Inequalities @ (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	☐	☒	☐
	Covid-19	☒	☐	☐
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020131 South and East Asia Total estimated cost: EUR 25 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 25 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	**Indirect management** with the entity selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.1.			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The military coup on 1 February 2021 brought a sudden halt to Myanmar's nascent democratic transition. The resistance by the population against military rule and the violent response of the military to crush the resistance pushed the country into conflict, and a political, development and humanitarian crisis. Both humanitarian and development needs have dramatically increased, not least because of the economic fallout of Myanmar: the ongoing economic crisis is expected to bring at least half of the population below the poverty line in 2022. By October 2022, more than 3,000 civilians have been killed and 12,563 are still under arrest[1]. Displacement numbers are both staggering and growing: more than one millionv individuals have been internally displaced since the coup, increasing the number of displaced persons in the country from 346 600 in 2020 to more than 1million as of October 2022[2], further endangering livelihoods and exacerbated existing inequalities. Finally, civil society is under great pressure and will need sustained support to remain operational over the next months and years.

The present political, economic and social crisis is expected to last for years. The new reality in Myanmar requires that the EU approach remains flexible and responsive to the shifting political context and to the specific needs of people in vulnerable situations, including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). In the immediate response to the coup d'état in 2021, the EU continued to fund the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus Response Mechanism (NRM)[3] to address immediate needs of conflict affected population and internally displaced people, to reduce vulnerabilities, as well as to increase resilience, protect and promote human rights, explore peace building opportunities, undertake conflict analyses and conflict sensitivity assessments, and finally, support civil society capacity building.

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[1] https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/iimm/index and Conflict Analysys and Resource Facility (NRM confidential information weekly report October 4, 2022)

[2] https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/myanmar-humanitarian-update-no-22-1-october-2022

[3] As stated in the 2017 European Consensus on Development, poverty, conflict, fragility, and forced displacement are deeply inter-linked and must be addressed in a coherent and comprehensive way also as part of the humanitarian-development nexus. It is increasingly clear that strengthening the resilience of the poorest and most vulnerable people is a priority for the EU across both humanitarian aid and development cooperation.
In 2017 the Commission adopted a Joint Communication regarding a Strategic Approach to Resilience in External Action, which recognised the need to move away from simply seeking to contain crises towards a more structural, long term and non-linear approach to vulnerabilities with the emphasis on anticipation prevention and preparedness
In May 2017, the Foreign Affairs Council approved Council Conclusions on Operationalising the Humanitarian – Development Nexus while encouraging the Commission and Member States to operationalise the nexus together, initially through implementation in 6 pilot countries (Chad, Iraq, **Myanmar**, Nigeria, Sudan and Uganda)

In the absence of an Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-27, which is due to the described crisis, and following the Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions of February 2021[4], this action is part of a Special Measure in 2022. With this additional funding, ongoing NRM interventions, launched - at a limited scale - in 2021 following the coup, will be upscaled and further reinforced. The action addresses the immediate needs of the Myanmar population deriving from the current crisis and conflict situation, and aims at supporting efforts for strengthening people's resilience to shocks and for creating – where possible – a space for meaningful dialogues for peace. Furthermore, the action is grounded in two concepts: a) a focus on flexibility, both through a combined humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding approach, allowing for a quick reaction to changing contexts and events, based on conflict sensitivity,human rights and gender responsiveness; and b) a focus on strengthening and working with civil society and localization, in order to enhance relevance, ownership, efficiency and sustainability.

The **Overall Objective (impact)** of this action is to contribute to peace building efforts, security, stability and sustainable development in Myanmar/Burma with a focus on vulnerable groups of population, including forcibly displaced persons. The **Specific Objective (outcome)** of this action is to improve the resilience of the people of Myanmar including vulnerable groups and IDPs.

The **Outputs** to be delivered by this action contributing to the Specific Objective (Outcome) are:
1. Vulnerabilities are reduced among the target population groups;
2. Improved local capacities to prepare for and reduce risk of future shocks;
3. Improved capacities of and established mechanisms for local actors, CSOs, women, youth and internally displaced persons for protection of their rights and supporting inclusive peace building efforts.

The action will be implemented in coordination and complementarity the co-funder DG ECHO and the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (responsible for the former Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace and the NDICI crisis response). The action also contributes to the realisation of the EU's Gender Action Plan III[5], in particular regarding the 'Thematic area of engagement – Integrating the women, peace and security agenda[6]'.

This action contributes primarily to SDG 16 'Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies'. It also contributes to SDG 1 and SDG 2 aimed respectively at "Ending poverty" and "Zero hunger" as well as SDG 3 "Good health and well being", SDG 5 "Gender Equality", SDG 6 "Clean water and Sanitation" and SDG 10 "Reduced Inequalities".

2   RATIONALE

2.1   Context

The coup d'etat on 1 February 2021 and the detention of leaders elected in the November 2020 elections drastically changed the operational environment. Mass protests led to armed revolt in many parts of central Myanmar, with anti-government armed groups known as People's Defence Forces (PDFs) forming throughout nearly all of Myanmar's government controlled areas. To date, at least 2 660 civilians have been killed and 12 550 arrested since February 2021. Conflict has also dramatically escalated in many ethnic areas, with several major ethnic armend organisations (EAO) stepping up conflict with the de-facto authorities, or openly supporting the formation and training of new PDFs.

A year and a half on from the February 2021 coup, the resistance against the military continues. Whilst a certain sense of normalcy has returned to major cities, severe violence continues in the Bamar heartland (Sagaing, Magway, Bago Regions) and in ethnic areas (Kachin, Chin, Kayin, Kayah and Shan States). National conflict developments reinforce this trajectory of escalation, with armed conflicts between the State Administrative Council (SAC - the military junta) and the Arakan Army (ethnic armed organisation-EAO) extending in Rakhine State and in Chin State. It is believed that the SAC has authorised 'clearance operations' - recalling the 'clearance operations' with which the Myanmar military targeted Rohingya communities in 2017 - in at least four areas, including Sagaing Region and Kayin, Chin, and Kayah States. Armed violence - including both ground clashes and air strikes - is likely to escalate.

Following the overthrow of the civilian government, democratically elected members of the Myanmar parliament (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw) formed the Committee Representing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) to oppose the coup.

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[4] Council of the European Union, Concil Conclusions – Myanmar/Burma 6287/21. 22.2.2021
[5] https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2184
[6] Joint Communication: Gender Action Plan III 2021-2025, An ambitious agenda for gender equality and women's empowerment in EU external action, SWD(2020) 284 final, 25.11.2020.

The CRPH backed the creation of the National Unity Government (NUG), a parallel government structure opposed to the military coup, which appointed a slate of ethnically diverse ministers and deputy ministers to form an anti-coup government. Widespread popular discontent against the coup has resulted in the emergence of major social movements and the emergence of PDFs, armed cells that have opposed the military's rule through attacks on security forces and military-affiliated officials. There are more than sixteen major EAOs (excluding a significant number of smaller splinter groups and ethnic-based militias), ten of which had signed the National Ceasefire Agreement, which has been severely undermined, but not yet completely ended by the coup. Some EAOS are now aligned with the NUG, while others are increasingly collaborating with the NUG and actively fighting against SAC forces on multiple fronts.

Targeted killings and repeated threats against those working for or in support of the coup have led to some resignations of administrators throughout Myanmar, contributing to the collapse of many of the local administrative mechanisms. This growing 'governance gap', especially in rural areas, has created space for EAOs to take the place of the administrative system in cooperation with the parallel (exile) NUG. However, there is not yet an established line of command between the national-level NUG and local bodies such as PACs and PDFs, making coordination a challenge.

With conflict growing, humanitarian needs have escalated and displacement numbers are both staggering and increasing. The initial political crisis is leading to a significant socio-economic deterioration, fast growing humanitarian needs across the country and substantial abuses and violations of human rights. Moreover, the economy is in shambles, which has further limited individual coping capacity. At least one million people have lost their jobs, while 66% of households with income recently reported that their income has decreased[7]. Nearly half the population is expected to be in poverty in 2022, with devastating individual impact. Moreover, as armed violence spreads throughout Myanmar, it is increasingly difficult for aid agencies to safely access those affected by armed violence.

Taking a broader perspective, Myanmar's geographic location and its endowment of natural resources puts it at the centre of geopolitical competition. China is the dominant player and is seen as complacent with the military, viewing Myanmar as a key pillar of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Similarly, Russia does not hide its sympathy and ties with the regime, trading defence cooperation with political support. India continues to engage the regime due to regional stability concerns and business interests. Some ASEAN countries (Thailand, Cambodia, Laos) have adopted a pragmatic 'no-preconditions' approach to dialogue with the regime, whereas others (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei) have strongly voiced their opposition to the regime. Japan and South Korea have business interests in Myanmar, and strive for influence with substantial assistance. The EU's like-minded partners, incl. the US, UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, have condemned the coup and reverted to economic sanctions against the regime whilst continuing to support the people.

Women activists and women organisations have been at the forefront of the pro-democratic movement from the beginning either as protest organisers, online mobilisers or active participants. The highly feminised sectors of health and education are among the first and most active in their engagement with the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) and women civil servants - according to UNWOMEN updates - account for at least 64% of all public employees sanctioned or dismissed. 3 of the 17 ministers appointed by the NUG are women and 27% of the appointees while gender equality is listed among the Union values.

Local actors and more broadly civil society are instrumental in assisting the increasing number of people in need and advocating for a return to democracy and rights. Civil society, however, is facing a number of challenges related to a continuous shrinking of the space in which they operate. The main difficulties they are facing concern security and safety of their staff, registration requirements to operate, control of their accounts and access to cash and overall control of their movements and activities. Nevertheless there remain opportunities for civil society to play a key role in advocacy and in dialogue with local actors, especially in non-government controlled areas (NGCA). EU, Member States and other donors will continue to rely mainly on civil society to support the Myanmar population, therefore a coordinated approach will be key.

The EU has been a witness to the 2015 National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and has been an important donor to the Joint Peace Fund. In this critical juncture, with the formal peace process stalled, the country must find new ways to transform the conflict, potentially through peacebuilding efforts at the local level. The EU can play a role, in line with the EU Global Strategy priority of taking an integrated approach to conflicts and crises as a means to support peace and prosperity. This engagement allows the EU to maintain its commitment for a peaceful resolution

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[7] OCHA. Myanmar Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022.

of Myanmar controversies, to support civil society-led bottom-up peace building efforts and to build foundations for future opportunities,, including response to forced displacement.

In the spirit of 22 February 2021 Foreign Council Conclusions, the EU with this action - while avoiding any legitimisation of the military regime – further strengthens its engagement in the country to i) support Myanmar people (including IDPs), now more than ever in need of direct assistance and protection; ii), promote EU fundamental values, clearly disregarded by the Myanmar Army, and iii) look for opportunities to support positive developments of the current crisis in particular with a view to engage on a return on the democratic path.

The EU is also best placed to strengthen the links between peace, humanitarian and development work, which is at the core of the current needs and Myanmar/Burma has been chosen by the Council of the European Union as one of the six pilot countries for testing the operationalisation of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The Nexus Response Mechanism (NRM), which is being further scaled up with this action, is particularly suited to respond to the need for a greater focus on localisation of humanitarian, development and peace initiatives, for human rights, conflict sensitivity and gender equity, and can be a key instrument to address the complex crisis situation in Myanmar.

2.2   Problem Analysis

Since the February 2021 coup, the official peace process came to a halt and the country is plunged in a political, socio-economic development and humanitarian crisis. Immediate results were the arrival of violence to areas which had not seen violence in decades, the escalation of longstanding conflicts in ethnic areas, a civil disobedience movement, internal displacement of civilians and the emergence of armed resistance all over the country. The conflict is of medium/high intensity in some parts of the country and its direct impact on the population is of great concern.

As a dire and complex situation unfolds - characterised not only in humanitarian terms but also as a deep crisis in development, democratisation, peace and human rights - and circumstances worsen, international support will play an important role in safeguarding the well-being of the Myanmar population. The suffering of civilians affected by human rights violations and abuses is ongoing not only for the stateless Rohingya ethnic group (of which about 1.2 million are refugees, over three quarters in Bangladesh)[8], but also for the ethnic minorities recognised by the State as well as civilians opposing to the coup, many of them from the Bamar majority as well. Ten years after their displacement and despite ongoing and often increasing needs, IDPs in northern Myanmar/Burma face decreasing aid and protection services. This is also the case in the south east of the country, where peace dividends have never been truly achieved and heavy fighting has resurged. New displacements are occurring all over the country, but especially in Magway, Sagaing and the south east, in the borderlands confining with Thailand: 695,000 new internally displaced (IDPs) are accounted for since the coup, increasing the total number of displaced persons in country from 346,600 in 2020 to 1,040,900 as of 23 May 2022. Further 40,200 persons fled the country to seek refuge in Thailand and India[9] since February 2021 military coup.

The World Bank predicts an annual economic contraction of up to 18 percent[10] while, according to data released by UNDP in November 2021[11], the compounded negative shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing coup d'état if unchecked, could push about 46 percent of the population in the country (as much as 25 million people), to live below the national poverty line by early 2022. This would represent a level of impoverishment not seen in the country since 2005, with a poverty headcount rates increased by 20 percentage points (relative to the 2017 levels – the last time welfare in Myanmar was assessed). In particular, the poor and the near poor are likely to be more affected. Furthermore, urban poverty headcount could increase threefold, coupled with additional increases in rural poverty.

This is exacerbated by gender inequalities; disparities faced by minorities, displaced and stateless populations; and the digital divide. UNDP's report highlights that women and children are expected to bear the heaviest brunt of the combined impact of COVID-19 and the political crisis. Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the coup, 61% of the population were unable to afford a healthy diet[12], almost half of all women of reproductive age were anaemic and close to one third of all children under five years of age were stunted. Given the pre-existent vulnerabilities female headed households are those most at risk. A study by the World Bank on the Gender impact

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[8] UNHCR, Global Trends report 2021, June 2022
[9] UNHCR, Myanmar emergency overview map and statistics, 25th April 2022.
[10] World Bank - January 2022: Myanmar Economic Monitor
[11] 211130 UNDP Myanmar - Impact of Twin Crises on Human Welfare_EN
[12] FAO, 2020

of COVID-19 points out that 42% of female headed households stated that they do not have enough to eat compared to 31% of male headed households. Persons with disabilities are also at a higher risk to be affected by crises and violence, and are often facing significant barriers to access aid and humanitarian services. They are as well often neglected in conflict resolution or peace building initiatives are implemented at community levels

Meanwhile, new restrictions in Myanmar's banking system are making access to cash increasingly difficult for the population and organisations. The military government is also dramatically restricting access to information through internet shutdowns and cracking down on media outlets and information providers - further restricting the ability of the international response to react.

Civil Society Organisations are the key actor of this process. After the coup EU work with CSOs has become even more important as support is now channelled mainly through civil society organisations. During 2021, the Nexus Response Mechanism established a network of almost fifty - and still growing - Civil Society Organisations with a twofold focus: on the one hand to provide direct support to communities (CSOs as preferred channel of service delivery), one the other hand to support civic participation and peacebuilding (CSOs as actor for change).

There is an urgent need to focus on reducing vulnerabilities and increasing resilience of conflict affected populations, including IDPs, by addressing immediate needs and human rights, through the provision of basic services, livelihood opportunities, the protection of human rights and a medium/long term goal of creating a space for a possible peaceful resolution of the crisis.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

Civil Society Organisations, first line responders and local communities are the ultimate managers of resources as well as beneficiaries of its improved management. Therefore the main stakeholders, both as rights holders and as action actors, are civil society organisations and community based organisations that are representing the rights of different groups such as women, youth, and persons living in vulnerable situations (persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and IDPs). The action will build the capacity of civil society organisations while at the same time relying on them to localise and implement the activities identified under this action.

The vast majority of INGOs operating in Myanmar partner with the more than 300 local NGOs and CSOs who are particularly strong in ethnic areas, where many local organisations have links to ethnic armed groups and on this basis are the only actors able to access large areas where people live in vulnerable situations. Many of the EU funded projects have supported this INGO/NGO partnership to deliver support to the local communities and the population. In order to deliver this direct support at local level, networks and collaborations with the more than 200,000 community-based organizations have been set up. These organisations originated from religious and ethnic groups at local level and implemented traditional social welfare/ basic services activities and supported the daily needs of communities, especially in remote, ethnic and conflict-affected areas with weak central government control.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective (impact)** of this action is to contribute to peace building efforts, security, stability and sustainable development in Myanmar/Burma with a focus on vulnerable groups of population, including forcibly displaced persons.

The **Specific Objective (outcome)** of this action is to improve the resilience of the people of Myanmar, including vulnerable groups and IDPs.

The **Outputs** to be delivered by this action contributing to the Specific Objective (outcome) are:
1. Vulnerabilities are reduced among the target population groups;
2. Improved local capacities to prepare for and reduce risk of future shocks;
3. Improved capacities of and established mechanisms for local actors, CSOs, women, youth and internally displaced persons for protection of their rights and supporting inclusive peace building efforts.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Indicative activities related to Output 1.:

- Support coordination and provision of accessible basic services to people and local communities in vulnerable and food insecure people (including IDPs and persons with disabilities), including in education, health, livelihoods, shelter, water and sanitation, social protection, in particular in conflict-affected areas and in cooperation with other, existing, sectoral programs;
- Inclusive shock-responsive social protection mechanisms, with a focus on women and populations in the most vulnerable situations, (including IDPs and persons with disabilities), and support to traditional and informal social solidarity systems;
- Reinforce and complement existing protection monitoring mechanisms and local early warning systems, including for COVID-19, and/or any other exogenous shock, including SGBV risks.

Indicative activities related to Output 2.:

- Strengthen coordination mechanisms for an articulated response to Myanmar's protracted crisis which integrates humanitarian development and peace initiatives according to needs and opportunities (including displacement);
- Carry out research and analysis feeding into the identification of evidence-based solutions in the framework of the triple nexus, from a conflict sensitive perspective;
- Technical support and training to build the capacity of local actors and civil society; enable them to identify emerging needs and to deliver basic services in an equitable manner;
- Efficient mine action operations (in particular advocacy) to accelerate the return of land to productive use and help to establish a safe environment where people affected by conflict (including IDPs) can rebuild stable and dignified lives.

Indicative activities related to output 3.:

- Promote freedom of movement and access to information, and establish mechanisms to actively protect rights and human security of persons and communities living in the most vulnerable situations, including to facilitate citizenship recognitions and protection rights related to SGBV, addressing some of the key root causes of forced displacement;
- Build capacities for gender-sensitive approaches and mainstreaming of gender perspective, including on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) framework and support CSOs to move forward the WPS agenda with a focus on increasing the representation of women and forcibly displaced persons in peace building initiatives and decision-making bodies in conflict-affected settings;
- Build capacities for human rights based approach and mainstream the rights of vulnerable groups and disability inclusion in basic services and protection in conflict situation as well as their participation in the peace building process in line with HR conventions.
- Confidence building among civil society actors involved in peace making and peace building; capacitation of local participants, in particular of women, youth and forcibly displaced persons, in negotiation and mediation with evidence-informed policy positions.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Control over abundant natural resources and weak governance are among the root causes of the conflict and most likely of the military coup. Few of the anticipated activities are likely to have significant environmental consequences, but this will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Protection of natural resources, access to water and sanitation and the identification of sustainable livelihood activities will be mainstreamed into all activities, and mine action will help to ensure better access to sustainable livelihoods. These are opportunities for strengthening the nexus between the humanitarian, development and peaceactivities.

Outcomes of the SEA screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment)

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that particular attention will be paid to gender mainstreaming throughout the action.

Women will not only benefit from the action but they will be key actors in the implementation of the action. The Nexus Response Mechanism (NRM) has already developed its own gender strategy with a focus on implementing gender transformative approaches. In order to operationalize its strategy, the NRM is setting up a gender equality thematic line, which will imply a revision of all its area based projects in order to appropriately mainstream gender issues throughout all its activities. In the area of peace, the action targets women's rights in the peace process and increased participation of diverse groups of women at all levels, including in conflict mediation and peace negotiations. Gender issues (including intersecting discriminations) will be addressed in the structured dialogue with CSOs and links between the roadmap and the CLIP (Country Level Implementation Plan) of the GAP III are included.

Through the NRM, there will be at least two projects marked G2 (according to the OECD-DAC gender marker) aiming at: i) supporting the implementation of the WPS agenda, with a focus on increased representation of women in their diversity and ii) strengthening women's rights organisations and networks, including most marginalised women (e.g. women with disabilities, from ethnic minorities etc.), to address their immediate needs and facilitate their work in the new context, including protection needs of women activists and related to SGBV in conflict.

Human Rights

The ongoing repression of peaceful protests following the military takeover of 1 February 2021 and indiscriminate and excessive use of force against civilians in military operations reinforce the importance of mainstreaming the promotion of Human Rights and demands for active Human Rights protection of categories at risks. The action will consider the status of the target groups (including displacement status) as well as the concerns of the different ethnicities in the areas of intervention. Systematic integration of a human rights based approach in activities aiming to meet the population's immediate needs, including the right to food and adequate nutrition will be pivotal.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that the Action will take an inclusive approach through-out of its activities (outputs 1, 2 and 3) considering the role, accessibility and specific needs of persons with disabilities in the current context. The Action will also ensure that organisations of persons with disabilities are included in peace building actions, CSO capacity building and consultation and that targeted support reach these organisations as well. The Action will ensure accessibility to premises where activities are held.

Democracy

The democratic transition in Myanmar started in 2012 and has dramatically been halted by the military coup staged on the first February 2021, preventing the elected Parliament to take seat and proclaiming a state of emergency. The action will support activities tailored to find spaces to promote meaningful and peaceful participation and exchange, with the aim to contribute in preparing the ground for a positive and democratic resolution of the crisis.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

A conflict analysis screening has been finalised at the end of 2021. The analysis screening reviews and updates the assessments carried out in 2019 and reviewed in January 2021, prior to the latest political developments, and as such builds on a continuous process of conflict sensitivity considerations, which in the current context has become even more important than before. This action will incorporate the final recommendations of the conflict analysis screening, and will adopt a conflict sensitive approach which will aim to minimise negative impacts and maximise positive impacts of the intervention on conflict.

Furthermore the NRM Conflict Analysis and Research (CAR) facility has released – in May 2022 – a paper to reflect on conflict sensitivity implications of external assistance in the current context which will inform the model of partnership promoted by the programme. Civil society actors will be enabled to take conflict sensitive approaches in their work and interactions.

Disaster Risk Reduction

It is possible that Myanmar/Burma could face hazards of increased frequency and intensity with the potentially growing effects of climate change which could lead to further displacement of populations. The country ranks 2nd out of 180 countries in the Global Climate Risk Index (2021, data for 2000 to 2019) and 18th out of 191 in the Index of Risk Management (INFORM, Mid2022). Readiness to cope with the impacts of climate change and extreme events is particularly low in IDP camps and communities with a high percentage of Rohingya population as also underlined in recent UNICEF pubblications[13]. Therefore, attention will be given to early warning systems and the level of exposure and vulnerability of communities facing natural hazards such as cyclones, storm surges, floods and tsunamis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other considerations if relevant
None

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
1-to the external environment	Risk 1: Political and security situation in the country does not allow for effective implementation of programmes.	**H**	**H**	Human rights due diligence protocols will be put in place; Close monitoring during the life of partnerships and projects in relation to do no harm implications. A conflict sensitive approach will therefore be applied. Application of the crisis declaration, i.e. flexible procedures.

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[13] https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/unicef-myanmar-humanitarian-situation-report-no-8-1-30-september-2022

1-to the external environment	Risk 2: Civil society and/or local actors cannot operate freely, for security, administrative (MOU/registration) or other practical reasons, which hinder an effective implementation of programmes; or CSO are linked with military or other security forces.	**M**	**H**	The NRM is placing some few staff in Bangkok, Thailand, to allow for cross-border / remote management solutions to overcome financial and logistic challenges. Additional human rights protection is provided as required. Specific gender-related security considerations are taken into account and addressed. Partners are "screened" for due diligence before engagement by NRM Conflict Analysis and Reasearch Facility (CAR).
1-to the external environment	Risk 3: Weak capacity of national actors, including ethnic organisations, political parties and CSOs results in major constraints for finding a common ground to re-engage into a process conducive to stability and peace.	**M**	**H**	Combining technical support with capacity building and soft skills trainings; Increasing capacity to engage in evidence-informed policymaking; Careful selection of implementing partners. Paying attention not to exclude CSOs representing marginalised population (such as organisations of persons with disabilities) and put in place support mechanisms to strengthen their participation.

Lessons Learnt:

Substantial engagement of the EU in Myanmar's conflict affected areas and the ongoing operationalisation of the triple nexus, engagement in the peace process and close cooperation with civil society allows for the consideration of a number of lessons learned for this action:

The layers of the different conflicts in the country are multiple and deeply interconnected at the political level. Hence the piecemeal approach too often adopted so far cannot address the underlying problems in their complexity. This requires a new approach encompassing the humanitarian, development and political dimensions, which is materialised in the Nexus Response Mechanism. Experience in particular from conflict-affected areas shows the need for a localised and bottom-up approach to avoid grievances, ratchet up tensions, and engender rivalries and fuelling of armed resistance. In crisis contexts, development programmes must timely respond to external shock affecting the populations in most vulnerable situations, (including IDPs), therefore programmes much be designed flexible and quick enough. Also, experience shows that tangible benefits for people in conflict/crisis zones must be promoted and the critical role of gender in addressing fragility has to be recognised.

In the current context, 'peace' or peacebuilding work should be addressed carefully. Large swaths of Myanmar's population, including both Bamar and other ethnic communities, consider the Myanmar Army and the de-facto authorities as illegitimate. Many see violent resistance, with the goal of completely overthrowing Myanmar's military institution, as being both acceptable and achievable. Hence, peacebuilding efforts should focus on preparing for the time when Myanmar's population and key stakeholders are ready for peace. Furthermore, to address conflict, achieve peace and respond to forced displacement, it is important to focus the analysis rather on structural discrimination than on inter-communal conflict: for instance, many Bamar have never been aware of the myriad of grievances of ethnic communities, which mostly live in conflict affected ethnic areas of Myanmar, which have been experiencing most of

the state brutality for decades and more recently. However, since February 2021, the Bamar community have faced violence on a scale that they had never experienced, so that there is now a greater realisation on the part of many Bamar of the reality that ethnic communities have faced for decades. Encouraging and fostering this new consciousness and growing solidarity will be critical as Myanmar's conflict develops.

The recent developments have shown, that civil society struggles to overcome the challenges they are facing following the coup. It will be crucial to provide flexibility to the local actors, for example with regard to access to cash, and allow time for the local actors to position themselves and prepare their response. It will be important to learn from the experiences of other countries to enable civil society to continue operating in a more and more restricted environment, including increasing control and oversight of the de facto authorities on operations and funding and the security risks that come with it. A coordinated approach by development partners is of the utmost importance and analysing lessons learned from other initiatives such as FLER (DG ECHO) will be drawn.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that in response to the broad basic needs, eruption of violence and increased conflict as well as the increasing importance of civil society as a consequence of the coup, the reinforcement of a nexus approach will make the population more resilient and will enhance the process towards peace. This will involve supporting people living in most vulnerable situations (i.e., conflict affected and displaced population and host communities and groups at high risk of exclusion), strengthening of peace building efforts at local community level, and a strong civil society both provider of services and advocator for the needs and rights of the people of Myanmar. This is done, under this action, by building capacities and/or facilitating the action of those local actors that mobilise informal solidarity networks. In the same context, and contingent to favourable developments, peace-making efforts will be supported. Technical assistance, analytical support, and other peace facilitating actions should continue to be provided to stakeholders genuinely engaged in peace solving actions. A strong conflict sensitive approach and a robust context based conflict analysis based on a participatory approach will be required.

This approach takes into consideration the assumption that, under the current circumstances, a flexible and holistic response is required to ensure people and organisations can resist the external impact caused by the military takeover. The humanitarian-development-peace approach, as currently operationalised by the NRM, not only allows to react flexibly to the changing needs, but also addresses the needs of the people with both a short and a long term vision, combined with a focus on conflict sensitivity and prevention, as well as rights based approaches and gender responsiveness. The current situation in Myanmar indicates a strong need to closing the gap between the immediate emergency response and the important focus on strengthening people's sustainable and peaceful living.

The underlying assumption here is that strong communities, with an important role and participation of all segments of the community including women, and marginalised groups and capacitated inclusive civil society organisations will build the basis for a social cohesion, life in security and peace, and also advancement towards development.

As part of the support for socio-economic recovery in conflict-affected areas and areas interested by civilian unrest, a strong emphasis will be given to alleviating inter-communal tensions and addressing serious human rights concerns: the systematic integration of rights based approach in activities aiming to meet populations immediate needs will be pivotal to all aspects of programme implementation, in order to assure principled, inclusive, non-discriminatory, accessible and needs based interventions. All activities implemented by the NRM will be screened against strict human rights due diligence and conflict sensitivity criteria for assuring principled engagement limiting the potential to perpetuate segregation or harmful practices or mismanagement.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

Results	Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators: (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	Contributions to peace building efforts, security, stability and sustainable development in Myanmar/Burma with a focus on vulnerable groups of population, including forcibly displaced persons.	1. Number of displaced persons reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law disaggregated by sex, disability and ethnicity, refugee status, forcibly displaced, and current location (** GERF 2.20 and 2.24)	1. 0	1. To be defined at contracting stage	1. Survey of displaced persons to be implemented by the Action at the beginning and end of implementation	*Not applicable*
		2. Level of material (level of income/assets) and non-material (access to public services) poverty in the conflict-affected areas, disaggregated by gender,sex, age groups, location, disability, displacement status and ethnic group -indicators)	2. To be defined at contracting stage	2. To be defined at contracting stage	2. Specialised reports by The Asia Foundation (TAF), the ADB, WB and other well respected think tanks and institutions as well as survey to be implemented by the Action at the beginning and end of implementation.	
		3. Annual number of civilian casualties due to armed clashes and/or political violence, disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, disability and displacement status, and location).	3. 0	3. To be defined at contracting stage	3. Reports by Nexus Response Mechanism Conflict Analysis and Research facility (NRM CAR) Assistance Association for Political prisoners' updates	
Outcome	Improving the resilience ofthe people of Myanmar, including vulnerable groups and IDPs.	1. Number and type of institutions (formal and informal) adopting transformative policies, norms and practices disaggregated by type (CSOs, local actors, communities, other) and location	1. To be defined at contracting stage	1. To be defined at contracting stage	1. and 2. Surveys conducted by NRM CAR and other EU-funded projects, Reports by NRM Conflict Analysis and Research Facility (CAR) established under the Nexus Response Mechanism); CSOs project reportsd Reports by NRM Conflict Analysis and	Broader conflict and security conditions do not hinder implementation.

Assistance can be provided without unwarranted interference by de-facto authorities, PDFs, EAOs or regional |
| | | 2. Number of individuals (male/female/ethnicity, disability) directly benefiting from EU supported programmes that specifically aim to support civilian post- | 2. 0 | 2. To be defined at contracting stage | | |

		conflict peace building and/ or conflict prevention (** GERF 2.24)	3. 0	3. To be defined at contracting stage	Research Facility (CAR) established under the Nexus Response Mechanism); CSOs project reportsd3.	actors that may aim to steer or change the focus of interventions under the umbrella of action (e.g. by influencing the selection of target locations, beneficiaries or modes of implementation)
Output 1.	Vulnerabilities are reduced among the target population groups.	1.1 Number of persons benefiting from local projects aiming to eliminate barriers to access to services for displaced persons (disaggregated by sex, disability, displacement status and ethnicity) (**EU RF 2.17) 1.2 Number of persons benefitting from improved basic services and human/technical/financial resources provided with support from the action (disaggregated by gender sex, disability and displacement status and ethnicity, and location)	1.1: 0 1.2: None	1.1 To be defined at contracting stage 1.2 To be defined at contracting stage	1.1 Progress reports for the Action - participants for each event disaggregated by sex, displacement status 1.2 Progress reports for the Action	Local entities, communities, and EAOs remain open to external project interventions that alleviate the conditions in which the civilian population lives. There is space for implementing partners to work without endangering their lives/freedom. The authorities support and civil society actors have access to resources to continue the services and support
Output 2.	Improved local capacities to prepare for and reduce risk of future shocks.	2.1 Status of quantitative and qualitative data provided by this action on the impact of the displacement situation, including protection, basic services, housing, employment, environment, where relevant - disaggregated by gender and ethnic group and location (** 2.18) 2.2 % (and number) of trained participants who have improved their capacities to participate in political dialogue. (Disaggregated by sex, disabilility and	2.1: 0 2.2: 0	2.1 To be defined at contracting stage 2.2 To be defined at contracting stage	2.1 Report on Assessment studies performed by the Action 2.2 National and sub-national baseline and final surveys conducted by the action. Facts of handing over / discussion on	Effective and reliable local Myanmar partners can be identified. Local ownership principles are honoured through processes of validation by a wide cross-section of stakeholders

		displacement status and ethnicity, and location)	2.3 0		analysis/information, lists of capacity building participants, minutes explaining the events/ training and coaching.	The capacities built and mechanisms created are supported and continued by local actors and CSOs
		2.3 Number of mechanisms (civil society organizations, community-based organizations, civil society networks, consultation groups, etc) established or strengthened that foster citizen and civil society engagement into what – rights protection, peacebuilding and reconciliation)	2.3: 0	2.3 To be defined at contracting stage	2.3 reports developed by the technical facility and CSO projects reports	
		2.4. Number of institutions which capacity is built by this Action for peacebuilding, rights' protection, gender equality and protection and counselling of forcibly displaced persons.	2.4. 0	2.4. TBD at the contracting stage	2.4. Progress reports and institutional assessments	
Output 3.	Improved capacities of and established mechanisms for local actors, CSOs, women, youth and internally displaced persons for protection of their rights and supporting inclusive peace building efforts.	3.1 Number of persons involved in local reconciliation and confidence-building initiatives (disaggregated by sex, disability and displacement status and ethnicity, location)	3.1: 0	3.1 To be defined at contracting stage	3.1 Progress reports	Stakeholders share a common understanding of priorities. The supported persons and women led organisations, and women rights' organisation have further support by the communities, local authorities and international partners to continue their activities. Local Civil Societies are continuously engaged in reconciliation and rights' protection.
		3.2 Number of women led organisations and women's rights organisations supported through the action (GAP III, disaggregated by type and location	3.2: 03 0	3.2 To be defined at contracting stage	3.2 Progress reports reports developed by the technical facility and CSO projects' reports	

4   IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1   Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is <u>not</u> envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country.

4.2   Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3   Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures[14].

4.3.1   Indirect Management with a pillar assessed entity

This action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity[15], which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- Demonstrated experience in managing projects/programs in the area of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus;
- Demonstrated experience: a) in providing support to Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), b) in peace making in conflict affected populations and c) in collaborating with CSO in conflict areas involved in providing access to basic services (health, education, livelihood);
- Demonstrated experience in implementing conflict sensitive and human rights based development projects/programs and in due diligence compliance;
- Demonstrated experience in capacity building for CSO;
- Established operational capacity in Myanmar/Burma and experience in the management of funds;
- Ability to operate in Myanmar/Burma, as well as Thailand and/or Bangladesh and India;
- Willingness to accept EU's leading role in policy/political dialogue with all stakeholders, to promote a Team Europe approach and to provide adequate visibility to the EU as per the EU visibility guidelines.

This implementation by this entity entails the activities related to Objectives and Expected Outputs as outlined in section 3.1.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entity fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.2.

4.3.2   Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

In case of exceptional circumstances outside of the Commission's control the implementation modality described in section 4.3.1 could be changed from indirect management with a pillar assessed entity to direct management through grants.

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[14] www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

[15] In agreement with article 154 of the Financial Regulation.

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The grants under direct management would contribute to achieve all objectives and results mentioned above in section 3.

In this case, there would be the need to select one or more grant beneficiaries/ who would take over the role foreseen for the organisation to be selected in indirect management (see section 4.3.1.). This/these organisations would then sub-grant to smaller/local CSOs to deliver activities as described in section 3 above.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The applicants to be targeted would be international NGOs with the experience and capacity to operate in the country and to manage the cooperation and sub-granting to local CSOs, taking into account the other criteria mentioned in section 4.3.1.

4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	
Objective/Output "Contributions to peace building efforts, security, stability and sustainable development are enacted, while promoting and protecting human rights, democracy and gender equality in Myanmar/Burma" composed of	**25 000 000**
Indirect management with a pillar assessed entity - cf. section 4.3.1	25 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 **Audit** – cf. section 5.3	will be covered by another Decision
Total	**25 000 000**

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The action is governed through a Steering Committee (SC) which provides strategic leadership and oversight of the implementation of activities. It is chaired by the EU Head of Delegation or her/his delegate and is composed by members of DG INTPA (EU Delegation Cooperation Section) as well as DG ECHO (Myanmar Office), who contributes to the NRM since 2021; a maximum of 2 representatives of the EU NRM secretariat as observer and/or for consultation; others agreed ad hoc by the Chair, for example to advise on political issues. Final decisions are taken by the Chair

following deliberations of the SC. The role of SC members is to advise the Chair to take decisions. The Chair strive to make decisions that are consistent with the recommendations of the SC members.

This Steering Committee meets on a regular basis, including ad hoc meetings as required given the flexible response the nexus mechanism requires. As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

• Baselines and targets will be provided at contracting level. Information will be collected by Implementing Partners, which will foresee adequate human resources and arrangement to allow for this process.

• Data collection and reporting: Surveys will be carried out by dedicated staff of Implementing Partners, who will foresee adequate human resources and arrangements for this purpose.

• M&E Capacities: This action foresees to provide support to and strengthen the M&E capacities of local actors/CSOs to monitor progress. All implementing partners will put adequate resources in place to ensure appropriate monitoring and evaluation.

• For the sake of accountability vis-à-vis stakeholders, their participation will be ensured by a constant consultation which will accompany all interventions.

• Gender equality and inclusion results will be monitored in line with each of the actions provisions.

• The application of a HRBA will be monitored, in line with the working principles (human rights for all, non-discrimination and equality, participation, transparency and access to information and accountability).

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, mid-term and final evaluations will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

Mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to chosen implementing modality and its efficiency and effectiveness in supporting the operationalisation of the Humanitarian-development-peace nexus (HDP).

The Final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the unfolding country crisis and how the HDP approach facilitated effective and efficient crisis response, peace building and conflict

transformation, strengthening Civil Society Organisations and promoting an inclusive development model for all conflict affected populations and those in situations of vulnerability.

Evaluation teams will include human rights and gender expertise and focus the assessments on the realisations in both areas (gender equality and human rights, as well as the application of the HRBA principles).

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 2 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

Evaluation services may be contracted under a framework contract.

The financing of the evaluation will be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3   Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.
As reported in "4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities" section, the Commission participates in the Steering Committee governing the implementation of the action to safeguard the financial interests of the Union.

6   STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

It will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.