

## Annex 1: Description of Action

### Belgium's contribution to DG ECHO's humanitarian response in Syria

#### Situation

##### General overview of the humanitarian situation in Syria:

The protracted crisis in Syria remains one of the largest humanitarian crises of our times, and the world's largest refugee crisis, generating humanitarian needs unparalleled in scale, severity, and complexity.

Inside Syria, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated significantly over the past twelve months, mainly due to the unresolved political crisis, increasing food insecurity, ongoing conflict, the sharp economic downturn, and the severe water crisis affecting millions across the country, amplified by cyclical, intensifying droughts, poor environmental conditions (de-forestation, soil and vegetation degradation), mismanagement of natural resources, cholera pandemic, and the disastrous earthquakes that hit northern Syria in February 2023. The context remains particularly complex and highly volatile, broadly characterised by three sub-contexts: Northwest, Northeast, and Southern/Central Syria, each experiencing various levels of humanitarian needs, conflict intensity, access dynamics and constraints. As a result, in 2023, we have continued to witness a deteriorating humanitarian situation.

##### Key Figures

In addition to some **5.7 million Syrian refugees in nearby countries**, inside Syria, there are:

- An estimated **15.3 million** people in need of humanitarian assistance (up from 14.6 in 2022, 13.4 in 2021 and 11 million in 2020).
- Well over half of those in need are women and children;
- **6.8 million** internally displaced persons (IDPs);

#### Proposed partnerships

##### 1. ACTED in Syria

In Syria, ACTED has been operating since 2012, delivering multi-sector assistance, including WASH, Shelter/Non-Food Items (SNFI), Livelihoods and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCM), to conflict-affected and displaced populations in northern Syria.

ACTED has a well-established presence on the ground, operating through 10 offices across Syria, proving to be an important DG ECHO partner in Syria thanks to its sound experience working in camps and settlements. ACTED operates both in Northwest Syria, in Idlib and Aleppo governorates, and Northeast Syria, in Hama, Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hassakeh and Deir-ez-Zor governorates.

##### DG ECHO's partnership with ACTED

DG ECHO has supported ACTED since 2013, except for 2016, 2017 and 2018. Under DG ECHO-funded projects, ACTED's response has been focusing on four main sectors: Shelter, WASH, Coordination and Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA).

Following the earthquake that hit northern Syria on 6 February, ACTED promptly developed a response plan to be implemented in parallel of their ongoing operations in Northwest Syria. Under the 2022 DG ECHO-funded Action, ACTED introduced an earthquake-dedicated response under its multi-purpose

cash assistance result, targeting 2,640 earthquake-affected households with MPCA across Idlib and Aleppo governorates.

In the framework of the 2023 DG ECHO-funded Action, ACTED is responding to critical needs of conflict and earthquake affected households in and out of camps in Northern Syria. Specifically, ACTED is focusing on enhancing the living conditions of vulnerable Syrians in camps and informal settlements through the provision of shelter and WASH assistance, CCM services and MPCA.

*Action title: Providing an evidence-based multi-sectoral humanitarian response to vulnerable conflict and earthquake affected households in and out of camps in Northern Syria.*

*Principle objective: To ensure dignity and address the critical needs in access to basic services for conflict and earthquake affected households in and out of camps in Northern Syria.*

## **2. Solidarités International (SI) in Syria**

SI has provided lifesaving and recovery services to the vulnerable Syrian population since 2012. SI has a long-established capacity in providing quality relief and recovery programs in Northeast Syria and Northwest Syria. SI operates mainly through three hubs in the field (one in NWS and two in NES, in Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hassakeh).

SI has focused its Syria operations on three main sectors: WASH, Shelter/NFI and Food Security and Livelihoods. SI is a specialised partner in water and sanitation responses that has implemented in northern Syria since years having achieved a high level of acceptance by the local communities. In NES, SI has been delivering WASH activities directly since 2017 thanks to its high technical expertise and good access.

### **DG ECHO's partnership with Solidarités International (SI)**

DG ECHO has funded SI in 2013 and then continuously since 2018. Under DG ECHO-funded projects, SI's response has been focusing on two main sectors: WASH and MPCA.

In the framework of the 2023 DG ECHO-funded Action, SI is delivering essential WASH services and MPCA to conflict and earthquake affected people in northern Syria. Under its WASH component, SI is contributing to improve access to safe water supplies, as well as integrating critical WASH services, for vulnerable IDPs and host communities in NWS and NES.

*Action title: Emergency life-saving response to cover the essential WASH and MPCA needs of people affected by the conflict or the earthquake in northern Syria.*

*Principle objective: Respond to immediate WASH and MPCA priority needs for people affected by the conflict or the earthquake in Northern Syria.*

## **3. ZOA in Syria**

In Syria, ZOA has been operating since 2015, delivering multi-sector assistance, including WASH, FSL, MPCA and Shelter/Non-Food Items (SNFI) to crisis-affected communities in the governorates of Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Latakia, Quneitra and Rural Damascus.

ZOA established an office in Damascus in 2018 and one in Aleppo in 2022. Since 2018, ZOA has built its presence in Syria and has specialised in the aforementioned sectors benefiting from continued access to the targeted areas in the different governorates.

## **DG ECHO's partnership with ZOA**

DG ECHO has funded ZOA in 2019, 2022 and 2023. Under the 2019 and 2022 Actions, ZOA partnered with Medair for the implementation of Health, WASH and Shelter activities.

Following the February earthquakes, ZOA was among the DG ECHO partners responding to the disaster through the reallocation of funding. The response focused on the extension of water trucking services and health activities for earthquake-affected communities in Aleppo.

Under the 2023 DG ECHO-funded Action, ZOA is directly implementing activities under four sectors: WASH, Shelter, FSL and MPCA. Through these sectors, ZOA is providing lifesaving services responding to acute humanitarian needs and supporting early recovery efforts targeting vulnerable and conflict-affected communities in the governorates of Aleppo, Quneitra and Rural Damascus. The project is resilience-oriented, providing early recovery assistance with longer-term impacts, particularly important in FSL as it will aim at reducing the prevalence of food insecurity and the reliance on negative coping mechanisms.

*Action title: Integrated lifesaving assistance to acute needs and support in the early recovery of crisis-affected populations in Aleppo, Rural Damascus and Quneitra.*

*Principle objective: Contribute to meeting lifesaving needs and supporting in the early recovery of crisis-affected populations in Aleppo, Rural Damascus and Quneitra through and integrated, multisectoral, area-based approach.*