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### ANNEX

#### **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – Global Europe**

#### **Exceptional Assistance Measure regarding Cameroon**

### **1. IDENTIFICATION**

- Action: Mitigating needs of crisis affected people in the South West and North West regions in light of the general impact of COVID-19.
- Action Reference: NDICI CR 2022 / 32
- Cost: EUR 2 500 000 (European Union (EU) contribution).
- Budget Line: 14 02 03 10
- Duration: Maximum 18 months. The authorising officer responsible may decide to extend this period twice by a further period of up to six months, up to a total maximum duration of 30 months, under the conditions laid down in Article 23(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947.
- Lead service: FPI

### **2. ACTION SUMMARY**

The action aims to mitigate the needs of crisis affected people in the South West and North West regions of Cameroon in light of the general impact of COVID-19, with a view to achieving durable solutions and contributing to peace building and social cohesion amongst communities.

The action will promote peace and crisis-management by preventing disputes related with housing, land and property rights of internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities, engaging with local authorities, civil society and community leaders to promote community dialogue and support dispute resolution mechanisms. It will also increase safe and equal access to basic health and sanitation services, strengthening capacities of the local populations regarding water and resource management. In addition, the action will contribute to the improvement of food security by strengthening livelihood opportunities and the economic welfare of crisis-affected populations including vulnerable youth and women.

This action is a follow up of a previous grant under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace.

### **3. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE**

#### **3.1 BACKGROUND**

The vulnerability of local populations in the crisis-affected North West and South West regions of Cameroon, where access to both basic services and health infrastructure is limited, has been exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19. The security situation has been steadily deteriorating in the two mainly English-speaking provinces since November 2017. Internally, there are tensions over the secessionist movement, which emerged in the 1990s and turned into an insurgency in 2016. Affected populations continue to face human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence, and violation of humanitarian principles perpetrated by different parties to the conflict. As a result, more than 570,000 people are internally displaced and more than 70,000 have sought refuge across the border in Nigeria. Destruction of infrastructure, including water supply, has put local populations under serious strain, disrupting livelihood assets and activities. At the same time, more than 380,000 internally displaced persons and refugees have reportedly returned to their communities, increasing pressure on access to natural resources in local contexts, where food insecurity is on the rise, and prompting tensions around disputed issues such as house, land and property rights. Health facilities remain insufficient to serve the highly vulnerable population. In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, in October 2021, a cholera outbreak started in the South West. Due to prevailing insecurity and often defective road infrastructure, health services were only able to provide a limited response. In this context, the overall socio-economic impact of the epidemics, including mounting food insecurity, increasing prices and reduced opportunities for livelihoods or income, has a potential to further escalate the crisis.

#### **3.2 RATIONALE FOR CRISIS RESPONSE ACTIONS UNDER THE RAPID RESPONSE PILLAR OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INSTRUMENT**

The socio political crisis in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon, compounded with the overall socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 epidemics and the shortfalls of the national health system, constitutes an exceptional and unforeseen situation in the sense of Article 4(4) of the NDICI Regulation. An adequate response cannot be provided under any other European Union Instrument due to the urgency with which the funds are required and due to available resources already being firmly committed.

Annex IV, paragraph 1, second paragraph, points (a), (g) and (r) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 specifically provides for the use of the NDICI rapid response pillar to (a) support, through the provision of technical and logistical assistance, for the efforts undertaken by international, regional and local organisations and by State and civil society actors in promoting confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation, transitional justice, women's and youth empowerment, in particular with regard to community tensions and protracted conflicts; (g) support for measures necessary to start the rehabilitation and reconstruction of key infrastructure, housing, public buildings and economic assets, and essential productive capacity, as well as other measures for the re-starting of economic activity, the generation of employment and the establishment of the minimum conditions necessary for sustainable social development, and (r) support for measures in response to natural or man-made disasters which pose a threat to stability, and to threats to public health linked with pandemics, in the absence of, or by way of complement to, Union humanitarian and civil protection assistance.

### 3.3 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	High, medium, low	Mitigation
Access to the population in affected areas is restricted due to active hostilities, obstruction or administrative impediments.	High	Action to be implemented with a high degree of flexibility and adaptability to react to changes on the ground.
Security situation endangers staff safety.	High	Abide by security guidelines.
Health of staff and beneficiaries is impacted by the COVID-19 expansion and delivery of activities is delayed or discontinued.	Medium	The implementing partner has the appropriate duty of care policies to ensure staff is informed, and their health condition is regularly checked.
Changes in the political or legal space impede civil society activities in the field of peacebuilding.	Medium	Partners to ensure regular context and risk analysis as well as scenario planning.

## 4. OBJECTIVES

### 4.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the action is to mitigate the needs of crisis affected people in the South West and North West regions of Cameroon.

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- 4.2.1 Internal Displaced People (IDPs), returnees and host populations have their capacity enhanced to prevent and address conflict and to support dispute resolution mechanisms.
- 4.2.2 Vulnerable people affected by the crisis improve their economic well-being through access to food, increased food production and restoration of livelihoods activities.
- 4.2.3 People affected by the crisis improve their access to basic services as water, sanitation and hygiene, reduce the risks associated with COVID-19 and cholera and have their capacity strengthened in water and resource management.

## 5. ACTION COMPONENTS AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The main expected results/outcomes include:

**Expected Result (1):** IDPs, returnees and host populations are able to prevent and address disputes linked to Housing, Land and Property (HLP) and work with communities to address social tensions.

Activities (indicative):

- 5.1.1 Promotion of HLP rights of IDPs, returnees and host populations through information sessions;
- 5.1.2 Training of local and regional authorities and humanitarian actors, local partners and community leaders on social cohesion, HLP rights and Collaborative Dispute Resolution;
- 5.1.3 Set up of Community Peace and Social Cohesion Centres.

**Expected Result (2):** Vulnerable crisis affected people improve their economic well-being and capacity to recover from the COVID-19 related shocks, especially youth and women.

Activities (indicative):

- 5.2.1 Provision of food assistance (cash/e-vouchers) to alleviate immediate needs;
- 5.2.2 Provision of assistance to resume food production activities;
- 5.2.3 Provision of inputs to resume or start livelihood activities according to local market opportunities.

**Expected Result (3):** People affected by the crisis improve their access to basic services as water, sanitation and hygiene, reducing the risk associated with COVID-19, and have their capacity strengthened in water and resource management.

Activities (indicative):

- 5.3.1 Provision of potable water through the construction/rehabilitation of water points;
- 5.3.2 Provision of adequate and gender-segregated sanitation facilities;
- 5.3.3 Hygiene promotion and awareness-raising concerning COVID-19 and cholera.

## 6. IMPLEMENTATION

### 6.1 IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES

The Commission will ensure that the appropriate EU 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<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://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.

### 6.1.1 Grant: direct award (direct management)

#### (a) Purpose of the grant

The grant will contribute to achieving the objectives and results as presented in sections 4 and 5.

#### (b) Type of applicants targeted

The type of applicants targeted for these direct awards are non-governmental and not for profit organisations.

#### (c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because **the action entails crisis management aid as referred to in Article 195(a) and as defined in Article 2(21) of the Financial Regulation** at the date of the Financing Decision.

### 6.2 INDICATIVE BUDGET

The total European Union contribution under this Financing Decision **will not exceed EUR 2 500 000**. A breakdown among components is provided hereunder, and is indicative.

#### Indicative budget breakdown

Components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified
Component 1: composed of mitigating the needs of crisis affected people in the South West and North West regions of Cameroon in light of the general impact of COVID-19		
6.1.1 – Direct grant (direct management)	2.500.000	N.A
Total	2.500.000	N.A

### 6.3 ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The action shall be implemented under direct management. It will be devolved and sub-delegated to the **European Union Delegation in Cameroon**, with the support of the Commission for the conclusion of the contracts implementing the action.

### 6.4 PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS 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 report. Each 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 outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference

the Logframe matrix. The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

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).

## **6.5 EVALUATION**

Having regard to the nature of the action, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components.

The Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

## **6.6 AUDIT**

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 audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

## **6.7 COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY**

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Requirements for European Union External Action (or any succeeding document) shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

Acknowledging that activities financed under this action will be politically sensitive and/or may constitute a security risk for the implementing partner/beneficiaries, the communication and visibility plan for this measure should develop a differentiated approach to satisfy the requirements of the legal obligations to which EU external funding is bound without putting at risk the actions supported by this measure.

## **7. COMPLEMENTARITY, COORDINATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

This action will complement ongoing and planned EU engagement in Cameroon, notably under the European Development Fund, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights and the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations. In this perspective, complementarities and synergies will be pursued with different EU-funded actions supporting recovery and community resilience to mitigate the needs of crisis affected people in the South West and North West regions, including through the existing mechanisms of coordination of the different instruments that concur to support the nexus between humanitarian, development and stability interventions in conflict-prone regions of Cameroon.

Coordination and synergies will also be promoted with current initiatives by the United Nations system, particularly in the field of the operationalisation of strategies aimed at ensuring the protection of vulnerable populations from all forms of violence, including Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Gender-Based Violence. Alignment with protocols and guidelines from WHO will also be pursued at all phases of the implementation process. Strategic engagement for coordination and synergy will also be sought with humanitarian actors and international partners, including INGOs, for coordinated efforts on strengthened protection of local communities against the consequences of the epidemics and its impact in terms of potential exacerbation of pre-existing conflict dynamics.