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### ANNEX

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

#### **Exceptional Assistance Measure regarding Egypt**

### **1. IDENTIFICATION**

Action:	Health systems capacity and Gaza evacuee-related health support in Egypt
Action Reference:	NDICI CR 2023/47
Cost:	EUR 5 410 466 (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 current conflict in Israel and Palestine is marked by unprecedented violence, loss of life, injury and destruction. The appalling terrorist attack by Hamas, which the EU immediately condemned in the strongest possible terms, and the Israeli military response, exacerbated a cycle of violence that escalated into a humanitarian tragedy in Gaza. The ongoing conflict has severely compromised the overall health system in Gaza. The unprecedented level of violence has resulted in extensive destruction and damage of medical facilities, impeding the ability to provide essential care to those in need. The strain on health services is further exacerbated by the tight blockade of Gaza causing acute shortage of medical supplies as well as medical personnel.

This 18-months exceptional assistance measure will focus on supporting care for injured individuals evacuated to Egypt by providing funding for medical equipment and health system capacity and resilience building of affected host Egyptian hospitals. Children, women, and high-risk families will be amongst those who will require medical attention or will accompany those requiring medical attention. The measure will provide immediate humanitarian relief with longer-term system and equitable access capacities strengthening.

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

#### **3.1 BACKGROUND**

In the current conflict between Hamas and Israel, numerous medical facilities have been damaged in Gaza and affected by severe lack of even basic necessities for their operation. Repairs, resupplies, and humanitarian medical evacuations are imperative needs. The evacuation of wounded individuals from Gaza to Egypt is a challenging and urgent humanitarian task. Given the strained healthcare infrastructure and the intensity of hostilities, swift and efficient evacuation processes are vital to saving lives. Medical teams and organisations are working tirelessly to transport the injured to hospitals, often putting themselves at risk. Egypt has played a crucial role in facilitating medical treatment for critically injured individuals evacuated to its hospitals and acting as a channel for humanitarian aid destined for Gaza. According to the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population statistics, 70 per cent of the medically evacuated people from Gaza are children and women highlighting the crucial need for maternal and childcare. It is imperative to assist Egypt in care for the wounded Gazans while not compromising the health care to Egyptian citizens.

UN agencies developed the Interagency Health Response Plan for evacuated Palestinians, prioritizing life-saving interventions, preventive measures like vaccinations, and essential services for vulnerable groups. Investment in the health system aims to handle additional pressure and undergo enhancements. The plan includes providing lifesaving healthcare to mothers and children, supporting high-risk families, and ensuring care for wounded Gazans without compromising Egyptian healthcare system.

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

Given the collapse of health system in Gaza, Egypt experiences an increase pressure on its health system, constituting an exceptional and unforeseen situation in the sense of Article 4(4) (a) 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), (l) and (p) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 specifically provides for the use of the NDICI rapid response pillar to support (a) a situation of urgency, crisis, fragility, hybrid threats, emerging crisis or natural disasters, where relevant for stability, peace and security; (l) support for measures to ensure that the specific needs of women and children in crisis and conflict situations, including preventing their exposure to gender-based violence, are adequately met and (p) support for measures to address the potential impact of sudden population movements with relevance to the political and security situation, including measures addressing the needs of host communities.

### 3.3 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation measure
Impediments of access and deterioration of the security situation.	High	High	<p>A monitoring and assessment mechanism, including security analysis, will be implemented to review the security situation on an ongoing basis to determine the appropriateness of response activities across the territory.</p> <p>Mitigation measures to reduce risk to staff of organisations implementing the project will include importation and use of equipment such as armoured vehicles, ballistic personal protective equipment.</p>
Risk of duplication of funding, and risk of internationalising funding without involving local organizations, which might increase the likelihood of misalignment with community needs, potentially undermining the effectiveness and sustainability of humanitarian and development funding.	Medium	Medium	<p>The aim is to implement in cooperation with local partners whenever possible, and never duplicate existing systems, but rather reinforce and support existing coordination mechanisms. It will be crucial to target the response to build and support local capacity, mobilize local partners, local professional networks, and local contractors.</p> <p>Work within the established interagency coordination mechanisms.</p>

## 4. OBJECTIVES

### 4.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the action is to enhance the protection of civilians and the evacuated persons who are injured from Gaza, and to strengthen the capacities of the hospitals in Egypt hosting them.

## **4.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

- 4.2.1 To improve access to and maintain functionality of essential healthcare services and to strengthen the health system capacity of Egyptian hospitals caring for the evacuated persons from Gaza.

## **5. ACTION COMPONENTS AND EXPECTED RESULTS**

**The main expected results/outcomes include:**

**Expected Result (1):** Improved access to healthcare services and well-being of children, women, and high-risk families.

Activities (indicative):

- 5.1.1 Enhance child protection mechanisms, including psychosocial support, case management, and community-based interventions;
- 5.1.2 Support and maximize the capacity of existing operational Egyptian hospitals and primary health centres with personnel, medications and delivery of essential supplies;
- 5.1.3 Support to reproductive, maternal and child health services;
- 5.1.4 Reactivate the health surveillance system, early warning, and disease prevention health information systems.

## **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>.

#### **6.1.1 Indirect management with a pillar assessed entity.**

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: mandate to facilitate the delivery of health and other life-saving health supplies, proven technical expertise and capacity to promote coordination on humanitarian and health issues, capacity in stakeholder engagement and advocacy, established presence in the country and established relationships with relevant authorities and key stakeholders.

### **6.2 INDICATIVE BUDGET**

The total European Union contribution under this Financing Decision **will not exceed EUR 5 410 466**. A breakdown among components is provided hereunder, and is indicative.

#### **Indicative budget breakdown**

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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.

<b>Components</b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</b>	<b>Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified</b>
Specific objective 4.2.1: to improve access to healthcare services for civilians in Palestine and Israel.		
6.1.1 – Indirect management	5 410 466	N/A
Total	5 410 466	

### 6.3 ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The action shall be implemented under indirect management for objective 4.2.1. It will be devolved and sub-delegated to the **European Union Delegation in Egypt** 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, a final 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**

The 2021-2027 programming cycle has adopted 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.

The 2022 "Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for external actions" reference document shall be used to establish the appropriate contractual obligations.

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

This action will be implemented in coordination with relevant EU stakeholders, in particular Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and the European External Action Service (EEAS). A careful coordination among these EU Services and the designated programmes aimed at stabilizing the current vulnerable situation in the region, will be ensured in order to benefit from a high level of complementarity and to facilitate an appropriate response and follow up.

Regular reporting from implementing partners to the EU Delegations will be warranted so that complementarity with EU-funded actions can be ensured, and valuable insights shared with EU Member States.