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ANNEX I

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the individual measure to continue support for basic needs and transition to livelihoods opportunities for refugees in Türkiye for 2022

Action Document for Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) IV

INDIVIDUAL MEASURE

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plan/measure in the sense of Article 23(3) and 23(5) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1. SYNOPSIS

1.1. Action Summary Table

1. Title OPSYS Basic Act	“Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) IV” Individual measure in favour of Türkiye for 2022 OPSYS business reference: NDICI-RRA-R-NEAR/2022/ACT-61540 ABAC Commitment level 1 number: JAD.1082619 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 the Republic of Türkiye
4. Programming document	N/A
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results	N/A
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	160
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: 1 – No poverty Other significant SDGs: 10 – Reduced inequality 2 – Zero hunger

8 a) DAC code(s)	16010 – Social protection – 75% 16020 – Employment creation – 25%			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	12001 – Central Government			
9. Targets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Tags digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/

<u>Connectivity</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tags	YES	NO	/
digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reduction of Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
COVID-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BUDGET INFORMATION

12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020320 Total estimated cost: EUR 400 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 400 000 000
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MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

13. Implementation modalities (type of financing and management mode)	Project Modality Direct management through: - Grants
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1.2. Summary of the Action

This action is the continuation and adaptation of a key intervention started under the umbrella of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey¹, which has been supporting refugees with unconditional monthly cash assistance since 2015, as part of the European Union’s humanitarian response to the refugee crisis in Türkiye. In line with the need for a shift from humanitarian to development assistance and in the framework of additional support to refugees made available following the European Council conclusions of June 2021, the action will take forward the management of this response from DG ECHO to DG NEAR. The programme in its fourth phase is adapted to reflect the increased focus that shall be put on supporting refugees exiting their reliance on cash assistance, while gradually entering the labour market. The new funding made available via this Action should on the one hand continue the provision of cash assistance and on the other strengthen the linkages to pathways for the labour market and adapt the targeting and eligibility criteria to reflect this shift. This action is complementary to the on-going and future action implemented by DG NEAR entitled “Complementary ESSN (C-ESSN)”, which supports the most vulnerable refugees through cash assistance, in alignment with the Turkish social assistance scheme where possible.

The specific objective of this action (*Regular resource transfers to the eligible refugees are provided in an effective and efficient manner as to support meeting their basic needs, while enabling pathways to protection responses and referrals to sustainable livelihoods opportunities*) will contribute to the general objective of improving the ability of vulnerable refugees to meet their basic needs. Therefore, the action contributes to

¹ For more information on the Facility for Refugees in Turkey, please refer to https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/enlargement-policy/turkey-0/eu-facility-refugees-turkey_en

the specific SDG – *No poverty* - as it aims at supporting refugees to meet their basic needs by providing financial support, as well as to the SDGs of *Reduced inequality* and *No hunger*.

The whole action is implemented with the Turkish authorities in the lead role, in line with the transition strategy to ensure a higher degree of participation, ownership and involvement of the authorities in the management of assistance to refugees in the country.

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Context

Due to its geographic position, Türkiye is a prominent reception and transit country for refugees and migrants. As a result of an unprecedented number of people arriving in Türkiye, mainly due to the conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, the country has been hosting more than four million refugees, the highest number in the world. This includes around 3.7 million (3,652,633) registered Syrian refugees², and 330.000 registered refugees and asylum seekers mainly from Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Somalia³.

In 2015, the Commission established the Facility for Refugees in Turkey by means of the Commission Decision of 24 November of the same year, amended on 10 February 2016⁴, and again on 14 March and 24 July 2018. The Facility is a mechanism to coordinate the mobilisation of resources made available under both the EU budget and additional contributions from EU Member States integrated into the EU budget as external assigned revenue. The Facility has mobilised EUR 6 billion under both the humanitarian assistance managed by DG ECHO (Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations) and development assistance mainly managed by DG NEAR (Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations) via the EU Delegation to Türkiye. Further to the European Council conclusions of June 2021⁵, the Commission proposed to mobilise a further EUR 3 billion for continued EU financial assistance for refugees and host communities in Türkiye for 2021-2023.

The Facility has allocated almost EUR 1.8 billion to the priority area of basic needs and socio-economic support, with the focus of humanitarian assistance on the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), an unconditional cash transfer programme aimed to support vulnerable refugees in Türkiye in meeting their basic needs via the provision of monthly, unrestricted, multi-purpose cash via a debit card system. The ESSN programme started in 2016 and has been supporting up to 1.9 million refugees. With a top-up of EUR 400 million outside the Facility approved by the EU budgetary authority in July 2020 and with additional funding committed in late 2021 under the additional EUR 3 billion package for 2021-23, the continuation of ESSN support is ensured until the first quarter of 2023. Under both the Facility and the additional support, smaller scale cash support assistance has been made available to support most vulnerable categories of refugees (the C-ESSN) and the two programmes of ESSN III and C-ESSN (including the C-ESSN II) are running and will continue to run in parallel.

² <https://en.goc.gov.tr/temporary-protection27>

³ A specificity of the Turkish asylum system is linked to the fact that the country has signed the 1967 New York Protocol of the 1951 Geneva Convention with a reservation. Accordingly, the vast majority of refugees in Türkiye cannot apply for fully-fledged refugee status but for "Conditional Refugee" status only, which, if granted, limits the stay in the country until the moment a recognised refugee is "resettled to a third country".

⁴ Commission Decision C(2016) 60/03 of 10.02.2016 on the Facility for Refugees in Turkey amending Commission Decision C(2015) 9500 of 24 November 2015.

⁵ EUCO 7/21 of 25 June 2021: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/50763/2425-06-21-euco-conclusions-en.pdf>

The Action continues the basic features of the previous ESSN programmes, while transferring the management of the ESSN from DG ECHO to DG NEAR, in line with the transition from humanitarian to development assistance. However, the programme, being in its fourth phase, will be adapted to reflect the increased focus that is to be put on supporting refugees exiting their reliance on the cash assistance, while gradually entering the labour market. While some adaptations in this regard are planned already under the third ESSN programme (still on-going and tentatively scheduled to end in the QII of 2023), the new funding made available under this Action should strengthen the linkages to pathways for the labour market and adapt the targeting and eligibility criteria to reflect this shift. In this regard, it will be important to ensure linkages between this intervention and the on-going and planned actions in the sector of socio-economic support. Moreover, the intervention will continue its complementarity with the C-ESSN, which was designed to target specifically the individuals and households that are most vulnerable and that are unable to provide autonomously for their households. The intervention under this Action Document will ensure complementarity while avoiding duplication with C-ESSN. Since projects will be under the management of the EU Delegation in Türkiye from QII of 2023, the overall monitoring will be strengthened and streamlined.

2.2. Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis

According to data provided by the Turkish Statistical Institute, the current economic challenges have led to an additional increase of the annual inflation rate reaching more than 80% in August 2022. This negative trend, which is heavily impacting the lives of refugees and the host community, is bringing about a significant increase in the cost of living (for essential items such as food, utility bills, rent etc.) while reducing access to the labour market.

The action seeks to address the following problems:

The economic challenges which will continue to have a significant impact on the refugee population in Türkiye. These challenges notably relate to the depreciation of the Turkish Lira, increasing inflation and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the job market which continue to impact refugees.

- The current economic situation in the country has diminished purchasing power and negatively impacted livelihood opportunities as the labour market reacts to the economic down-turn;
- Refugees' level of debt increased drastically over the past year to cope with the rising costs;
- The COVID-19 pandemic had a considerable impact on the ability of refugee households to meet their basic needs as job opportunities dwindled, and forcing refugees to increasingly rely on food related coping strategies, borrowing money and spending their savings. These effects of the COVID- 19 pandemic have not disappeared.

Access to income and formal employment which remains the main challenge for economic integration of refugees.

- Especially, COVID-19 has caused further loss of jobs for various sectors in which Syrians work. This situation once again emphasised the importance of registered employment. Limited access to working opportunities in the formal sector due to lack of relevant language, educational accreditation, diploma and professional skills, etc.
- The quota system of working permits represents another barrier. The maximum quota of Syrian under Temporary Protection (i.e. the legal classification used by Turkish authorities) that an entrepreneur can formally employ is 10%.
- Lack of livelihood opportunities which further increase households' vulnerability in meeting their basic needs.

Low level of social cohesion among the refugees and host communities which can result in social tensions⁶.

- The economic challenges and the COVID-19 pandemic as well as limited Turkish language ability remain some of the main barriers to building relationships with the host community.
- The perception by host communities that refugees are more vulnerable has been decreasing over time, considering the long-lasting presence of the refugees in the country and the support they receive notably via the ESSN.

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

Key stakeholders directly covered by the action are:

- *Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS) - Directorate General of Social Assistance (DGSA)*
Mandate: MoFSS is the only national public institution providing service in the area of social assistance and social protection, covering the whole territory of Türkiye.
Role: Leading role in the coordination of cash assistance and main beneficiary of the action
Capacity: previous experience as beneficiary of the *Improving the living standards of the most vulnerable refugees through basic needs support (C-ESSN)* implemented under DG NEAR and most relevant stakeholder of the ESSN and CCTE⁷ programmes currently implemented under DG ECHO.
- *Turkish Red Crescent (TRC)*
Mandate: Providing aid for needy and defenceless people in disasters and usual periods as a proactive organisation, developing cooperation in the society and decreasing vulnerability
Role: Leading role in the coordination and provision of monthly cash payments and Co-Beneficiary of the action.
Capacity: previous experience as co-beneficiary for the implementation of the *Improving the living standards of the most vulnerable refugees through basic needs support (C-ESSN)* implemented under DG NEAR, and as local implementing partner for ESSN and CCTE programmes under DG ECHO.
- *Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SASFs)*
Mandate: The SASFs are under the chairmanship of the provincial and sub-provincial governors and are in charge of implementing social assistance at the local level.
Role: SASFs collect locally applications of potentially eligible beneficiaries, carry out households visit to evaluate the assistance request received (data verification process), register beneficiaries' data in Integrated Social Assistance System (managed by the MoFSS).
Capacity: There are 1003 SASFs in all provinces and sub-provinces across the country in accordance with the objectives of the Turkish law no. 3294.

Key stakeholders indirectly covered by the action:

- DG ECHO, as responsible for the previous and existing ESSN phases;
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies - IFRC which supports the ESSN transition from Humanitarian to Development assistance
- Presidency of Migration Management of the Ministry of Interior – PMM. Since April 2022 it is in charge of the coordination of EU support via the Facility for Refugees in Turkey and EUR 3 billion in additional refugee support in Türkiye 2021-2023 and of the coordination on data collection and sharing with the provinces/sub-provinces on the refugee population

⁶ For further information please see “Social cohesion in Turkey: refugees and host communities in Turkey”, World Food Programme, [Social cohesion in Turkey: refugees and the host community - Online survey findings rounds 1-5, July 2020 - Türkiye | ReliefWeb](#)

⁷ CCTE stands for Conditional Cash Transfers for Education, which is a project run by DG ECHO to provide bimonthly cash payments to families, whose children attend school regularly.

- MoFSS: it is in charge of the coordination and data sharing between C-ESSN and ESSN, CCTE and with the DGs in charge of provision of protection services⁸
- Ministry of Health: in charge of the coordination with “Improving the Health Status of the Syrian Population under Temporary Protection and Related Services Provided by Turkish Authorities” project - SIHHAT - and other migrant health activities
- Ministry of National Education, in charge of the coordination with PIKTES +
- Ministry of Labour and Social Security – Directorate General of International Labour Force, in charge of prevention of informal labour/working permits, support to employment opportunities
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, responsible for data on target population and communication
- International Organisation for Migration, which collaborates closely with the Commission on the support to migrants
- Local and International Non-Governmental Organisations,
- Member State Embassies, notably because of their programmes in the field of protection and basic needs and other active donors and implementing partners for ongoing projects on basic needs.

Moreover, in the context of the Facility for Refugees, a number of international organisations, including financial institutions and EU Member States’ agencies, have been very active in Türkiye in the provision of assistance to SMEs and in supporting the right skills development amongst refugee and host communities. Specifically, the resources invested in 22 projects throughout the timespan of the Facility are intended to benefit refugees in those provinces where the refugee population is relatively high⁹ as well as the local communities. An increased focus on socio-economic support to foster livelihoods opportunities has been key in the implementation of the second tranche of the Facility, starting in 2018, in line with the transition strategy from humanitarian to development assistance, given the protracted nature of the refugee crisis. In 2018 more than EUR 465 million were allocated to the priority area of socio-economic development under the second tranche of this financial assistance, which was implemented via a number of interventions by pillar-assessed organisations active in Türkiye.

2.3. Lessons Learned

This Action is a follow-up to extensive support in the area of basic needs and socio-economic support that has been funded via the Facility for Refugees in Turkey (and additional budget) and managed respectively by DG ECHO and DG NEAR. The lessons learned from the previous phases of the ESSN contract as well as the C-ESSN intervention are reflected in the preparation of this Action Document and the future contract. Moreover, a number of transitions have already taken place that have contributed to the design of this action:

- Transition from ESSN II to ESSN III with a change of the implementing partner in the DG ECHO run contracts;
- Transition of part of the ESSN caseload from ESSN to C-ESSN: given the protracted nature of the Syria crisis and in line with the Facility transition strategy from humanitarian to development assistance, in December 2020 the Commission signed a contract (the Complementary ESSN) for a EUR 245 million direct grant with the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS) and the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), to allow for the provision of monthly financial support to the most vulnerable refugee families (identified from the beneficiaries of ESSN) to cover their basic needs.
- Transition of CCTE project from UNICEF to MoFSS (and from DG ECHO to DG NEAR) as part of the transition from humanitarian to development assistance.

⁸ DGFCS (Directorate General of Family and Community Services), DGWS (Directorate General of Women’s Status), DGCS (Directorate General of Child Services) and DGDE (Directorate General of Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly).
⁹ Seventeen projects are ongoing and five have been completed.

Throughout the implementation of the current actions (C-ESSN and ESSN), the following lessons learned were identified and will be reflected in the implementation of the next phase of the ESSN as planned in this Action Document:

- Regular coordination between the services of the Commission (DG ECHO and DG NEAR) and ESSN/C-ESSN Implementing partners have ensured proper transition of the most vulnerable refugee households from ESSN to C-ESSN. This has allowed for the transfer of knowledge as well as timely cash assistance delivered to the beneficiaries without interruption.
- Joint monitoring missions (with ESSN/C-ESSN stakeholders' participation) have provided key elements for the re-assessment of support provided to the beneficiaries of both interventions and the basis for the revision of the targeting criteria of the action.
- Technical (capacity building/trainings) and physical support (purchase of vehicles, computers and database update, human resources) provided through the current C-ESSN and ESSN allowed the continuation of the assistance also during challenging conditions under the –COVID-19 pandemic.
- The compliance and limitations imposed by the Law on Protection of Personal Data No. 6698 should be taken into consideration when designing the action and drafting the contract in view of the general prohibition that applies in Türkiye to the processing or storing of personal data without explicit consent from the data subject, subject to certain limited exceptions where such consent is not required. Access to data on eligible beneficiaries still remains important for accountability and efficiency of the programme¹⁰.
- Increasing the efficiency of large cash assistance projects such as ESSN, as recommended by the European Court of Auditors¹¹.
- Better communication and visibility of EU assistance needs to be ensured to promote the donor as per the provisions of the General Conditions on EU visibility applicable to all projects.
- Close coordination with the PMM of the Ministry of Interior and DG ILF of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security is to be established to ensure that applications for the relevant protection status are granted without delay and that work permits and legal mobility for refugees are provided in order to decrease dependence on cash support.
- The final evaluation of ESSN I (November 2016 – February 2018) looked at the overall performance of the ESSN programme and concluded that, while the assistance was relevant and appropriate, not all vulnerable groups were being appropriately targeted and included. Subsequently, the SASF discretionary allowance was introduced to reduce the identified exclusion error. The ESSN II Mid-Term Review 2018/19 looked at specific and more recent elements of ESSN programme design, including the SASF discretionary allowance, referral and outreach teams, referrals of potential protection cases, and the overall effects of the changes in the Turkish economy on the ESSN.
- In order to strengthen the transfer management system, TRC has developed its capacity to control and store payment lists regularly through the online reporting platform developed by the financial service provider (FSP), Halkbank. Ensuring communication and coordination with the FSP, TRC also facilitates access to the online reporting platform. This platform enables regular monitoring of the card and cash assistance distribution processes and sweepback actions to ensure that eligible individuals are able to access their assistance. As for verification and enrolment processes, an integrated system with governmental partners has been established which enables cross-checking of registration.
- Actions under ESSN IV towards facilitating referrals of ESSN beneficiaries to livelihoods opportunities need to be strengthened through a contextualised approach to challenges and opportunities in the labour market and strong coordination at the central and field level with the livelihoods partners.

¹⁰ Recommendation 6 in the ECA special report on the Facility for Refugees in Turkey. The full report is available at: https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR18_27/SR_TRF_EN.pdf

¹¹ Recommendation 4 in the ECA special report on the Facility for Refugees in Turkey

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of the action is *to support refugees in Türkiye to meet their basic needs.*

The Specific Objective (Outcome) of this action is *to provide efficiently and effectively regular resource transfers to eligible refugees to meet their basic needs, while enabling pathways to protection responses and referrals to sustainable livelihood opportunities.*

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objective (Outcome) are:

- 1.1 An efficient cash transfer cycle is enhanced, implemented and coordinated*
- 1.2 Eligible refugees receive resource transfers to meet their basic needs*
- 1.3 Referral pathways are strengthened through safe and timely identification and referral of potential protection cases to protection services*
- 1.4 Livelihood referral and information exchange pathways are developed and maintained to increase employability of suitable ESSN recipients*

3.2. Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1: ***An efficient cash transfer cycle is enhanced, implemented and coordinated***

The following group of indicative activities are listed below:

- *To improve the Framework for Monitoring and Evaluation of the provided assistance*

This activity may encompass the following actions: to carry out field visits and data collection; to carry out studies and analysis (Pre-Assistance Baseline/Post-Distribution Monitoring/ and Surveys); to perform joint monitoring missions to monitor the progress of the action and identify good practices and lessons learned. Moreover, activities will be implemented to assess the level of satisfaction and receive feedbacks on the management and performance of the ESSN cash assistance, specifically looking at knowledge about the programme, communication channels, general issues, support, etc.

- *To strengthen the capacities of the relevant and involved institutions (at national and local level) to assist target beneficiaries*

This activity will focus on capacity building activities for the development of additional competences and skills of the DGSA/TRC structure responsible of the implementation of the action and the SASFs personnel in charge of the identification, registration and monitoring of the beneficiaries. This set of activities will be implemented in full complementarity and alignment to the activities that will be carried out under C-ESSN.

- *To provide information dissemination, advocacy and sensitisation on ESSN*

Strategic communication would be needed to get the support of society and stakeholders for supporting the process for reaching the objectives. This activity may include the following actions: to produce informative material in order to inform potential beneficiaries on their rights and obligations; to carry out advocacy initiatives toward the most relevant stakeholders in order to remove access barriers for assistance and to disseminate information on livelihood referral mechanisms; to promote knowledge sharing among the most relevant stakeholders that provide basic needs support.

Activities related to Output 1.2: ***Eligible refugees receive resource transfers to meet their basic needs***

The following group of indicative activities are listed below:

- *To carry out identification, application and verification of eligible refugees to receive ESSN support*

This activity is crucial for the definition of the list of refugees that are eligible to receive ESSN (and at this stage also C-ESSN) support. It is carried out through approximately 1.003 SASFs and nine TRC service centres, which receive applications, carry out household visits and make referrals to protection services. Individuals may also visit SASFs/service centres to update their information such as address/contact number, adding a new member to their household and so forth.

The eligibility of the applicants is checked against specific targeting criteria that have been identified for ESSN and, since 2021, for C-ESSN so as to ensure that there is no duplication and that eligible applicants receive the cash transfers. The targeting criteria to be used for the identification of eligible ESSN applicants have experienced changes since 2016 and have been adapted - to the extent possible - to the evolving needs of refugees, taking into consideration the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic challenges.

The targeting criteria for this new phase of ESSN will consider the need to gradually reduce the dependency on cash support and support the referral mechanisms and creation of livelihoods opportunities. While the most vulnerable refugees will continue to be supported under C-ESSN due to their inability to access the labour market, this intervention should stabilise and reduce the number of ESSN beneficiaries so as to allow for the sustainability and feasibility of the programme also in the longer term. While adaptations have been on-going under the current ESSN III, this intervention will build on the experience, studies and lessons learned to aim for an intra-household targeting that should ensure similar levels of coverage as under the current programme but with a more restricted targeting of individuals eligible for support per household. The planned intervention will ensure an efficiency ratio comparable to the current ESSN contract and will strive for increased efficiency.

- *To ensure that the cash transfer is made available to the target beneficiaries*

The bulk of this activity is the provision of cash transfers to refugees eligible for assistance. Payments shall be carried out timely and regularly on a monthly basis to the eligible and verified beneficiaries. Additionally, this activity may include the actions to be taken by the partners to perform the cash payment to the beneficiaries, i.e. to ensure that the databases in use for the provision of the cash assistance (ISAIS and Göçmen) function well and exclude duplication of support with beneficiaries of the C-ESSN and to address the reduction of inclusion and exclusion errors.

Activities related to Output 1.3: Referral pathways are strengthened through safe and timely identification and referral of potential protection cases to protection services

The following group of indicative activities are listed below:

- *Coordinating with internal and external actors in the protection sector to strengthen potential protection referral pathways*

This activity will focus on the work with relevant institutions and organisations to further improve the referral mechanism linking refugees to protection actors and service providers to timely address the potential protection risks. This activity may include the following actions: strengthening of identification of concerns and referrals within the ESSN programme, ensuring coordination and working with internal and external actors; and enhancing external referrals and capitalising on the efforts of the Community Centres in this area; strengthening and systemising referral pathways to ensure effective intervention.

- *Managing the protection referral mechanism within the ESSN programme*

This activity will consist of the referral of potential protection cases identified by monitoring and evaluation and referral and outreach staff, TRC service centers and the 168 Türk Kızılay Call center on an ongoing basis

to TRC's protection programme and other relevant protection actors such as NGOs/INGOs and governmental bodies.

Activities related to Output 1.4: Livelihood referral and information exchange pathways are developed and maintained to increase employability of suitable ESSN recipients

The following group of indicative activities are listed below:

- *A livelihoods referral mechanism is established within the ESSN for refugees*

The MoFSS, together with the relevant stakeholders, shall continue working towards maintaining and building upon the livelihoods referral mechanism for ESSN recipients who have the potential to work to become more self-reliant through access to sustainable livelihoods opportunities. The emphasis of this activity is on the establishment of solid systems that allow for referrals to sustainable livelihood opportunities. In order to ensure the effectiveness of the referral mechanism, the level of coordination will increase between MoFSS and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (DGILF) which is main responsible stakeholder for employment for SuTP and the other foreigners.

- *Refer ESSN recipients with potential to work to livelihood opportunities*

Livelihoods encompass assets, capacities, strategies and activities required to generate and maintain a means of living, including - but not limited to - both wage and self-employment. Therefore, the key to reducing the dependency of ESSN recipients on cash assistance is to provide sustainable and formal livelihoods opportunities. This activity will focus on exploring collaboration for referrals with organisations providing language training, vocational programmes and on-the-job training, especially at regional level, which is expected to lead to more sustainable livelihoods opportunities. Complementarity and horizontal coordination should also be ensured and continue with the EU funded actions in the sector of socio-economic support part of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey and additional refugee support.

3.3. Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Outcomes of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening

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

Outcome of the Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening

The 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, as gender equality and empowerment of women and girls is not targeted as principal objective, but the gender dimension is streamlined in all activities under the Action. Moreover, a gender perspective is used in the ESSN project currently on-going when determining the dependency ratio within a household. According to the targeting adaptations recently introduced, working-aged women are removed from the dependency ratio calculation, and small households with low numbers of working-aged women and no working age men are considered eligible. Nonetheless, socio-economic support activities shall and will focus also on enhancing participation into jobs of women.

Human Rights

While retaining major focus on Syrian refugees, the ESSN IV action also targets non-Syrian refugees, in line with the approach of "Leaving no-one behind" and "One Refugee" approach. The eligibility for ESSN since

the very beginning of the implementation of the programme run by DG ECHO in 2016 has been assessed on the basis of specific conditions, including the official registration in the Republic of Türkiye with an ID starting with 99, which is not granted solely to Syrian refugees (SuTPs - Syrians under Temporary Protection, according to the Turkish legislation) but also to other categories of foreigners, including both individuals under international and temporary protection and humanitarian residence defined under Foreigners and International Protection Law of the Republic of Türkiye.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that, even though disability is not the principal objective of the action, refugee families of individuals with disabilities face increased vulnerability and tend to have higher negative coping strategy. Currently, families and individuals with disabilities are covered by the cash assistance provided by the C-ESSN action, but adaptations in the targeting criteria in the two programmes might switch the categories from one intervention to the other. At the same time, it is recognised that individuals with disabilities face additional challenges in the labour market, and ad-hoc interventions to support their integration could be designed in other projects under the development support.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

This action should be understood in the wider context of the EU support to refugees and host communities in Türkiye, via the Facility for Refugees and the additional support made available under the 2020-2023 EU budget. It aims to continue support by meeting the basic needs of the refugee population, while at the same time encouraging pathways to sustainable socio-economic opportunities and reducing reliability on this poverty alleviation support. This action will complement a similar intervention (C-ESSN) but with different targets and purpose, that supports with cash assistance some most categories of refugees in Türkiye, who are unable to access any form of sustainability via the labour market (formal and informal) due to their high vulnerability. Other actions, currently implemented within the framework of the Facility and for which new funding shall be made available under the additional envelope and which are currently being negotiated with the Turkish authorities, will strengthen the skills of refugees to access the labour market and provide for their households, while being able to access quality education for children¹², health and medical services.

In line with the strategic approach endorsed by the Facility Steering Committee, the actions of the second tranche of the Facility 2018-2019 increasingly focussed on longer term needs and on increasing refugee resilience rather than on humanitarian assistance. Support under this additional financial package will continue and complete the transition from humanitarian to development assistance. This action fits into this overall context as the intervention initially funded by DG ECHO as humanitarian response, is being transitioned to development assistance and closely linked to livelihood referrals and socio-economic opportunities.

3.4. Risks and Assumptions

Category¹³	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
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¹² Please see the Commission Implementing Decision C(2021) 9699 final of 16.12.2021 on the financing of the individual measure to support inclusive quality education for refugees in Turkey:

¹³ The risk (category) : 1-to the external environment; 2-to planning, processes and systems; 3-to people and the organisation; 4-to legality and regularity aspects; 5-to communication and information

2	Delays in the delivery of monthly cash assistance	Low	High	A strong monitoring mechanism will continue to be in place among all the partners involved
1	Purchasing power of cash transfers diminishes due to significant inflation	High	High	Inflation and purchasing power will continue to be monitored closely. Transfer value adjustments of the cash assistance will be taken into consideration and aligned to corresponding measures applied in the Social Assistance Scheme for Turkish citizens.
1, 5	Increased social tensions in case of perceived disparities in the provided financial support	High	Medium	Monthly cash payments to refugee families are calculated comparing the Social Assistance Scheme to Turkish citizens. Awareness raising campaigns to reduce social tensions and to inform both refugees and Turkish nationals of the funding sources of the programme will continue to be implemented.
3	Lack of interest, motivation and commitment by the stakeholders to provide assistance to the refugees	Low	Medium	By hosting the highest number of refugees in the world, Türkiye has already demonstrated its commitment to address this refugee crisis. Continuous communication between EU and Türkiye on the EU-Turkey statement puts the issue of assistance to refugees high on the agenda of both EU and Türkiye.
4	Developments in the overall region indicate that Türkiye may be receiving further migration flows towards and through Türkiye	High	High	This is particularly related to the current situation in Afghanistan, Iran and Ukraine, which may lead to higher migratory flows. Türkiye faces limitations to absorb a higher number of migrants and refugees. Closely monitoring of the developments shall be ensured.
5	PMM's new Migration management strategy	Medium	Medium	The new policy recommendations on registration and mobility of refugees may have a negative impact on the refugee population in Türkiye and the potential for sustainable livelihoods. Continuous policy dialogue, as well as harmonisation with the ESSN exit strategy and with the Sustainable socio-economic development programme needs to be ensured.

1	Increasing anti-migration rhetoric in view of the Turkish general elections in 2023	Medium	Medium	Increasing anti-migration rhetoric is taking place in Türkiye, particularly among political parties who are starting to use this as a theme in the view of the key elections expected in June 2023. This is also impacting public attitudes, including in social media. Closely monitoring of the developments and active communication shall be ensured.
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External Assumptions

- Effective level of assistance to significantly reduce the use of negative coping strategies (e.g. illegal activities; use of child labour; health-damaging practices etc.). Given that the cash transfers to refugees are set as fixed absolute amounts – i.e. they are not automatically adjusted in line with inflation – the purchasing power of the transfers will gradually diminish in a context where inflation is significant. Therefore, in an inflationary environment there is a significant risk that this assumption will not hold. This related risk shall be monitored accordingly as explained above.
- Eligible refugees will be effectively identified and supported (effective targeting). The nature of the participating institutions and the investments made in the assessment, cash transfer and monitoring and evaluation systems provide a high degree of confidence that the assumption is robust.
- Coordination mechanisms in place between the relevant IPs. To ensure that the same beneficiaries will not be assisted in the same way through other actions – i.e. C-ESSN - and that they do not fall into any gaps between different actions, a robust coordination mechanisms among the relevant stakeholders is already in place. The likelihood of this assumption not holding is considered quite low.
- Infrastructure for protection and livelihoods referrals is established. The protection and livelihoods referral and response mechanisms have been already in place during the current ESSN III implementation while the action will continue maintaining and building upon the two referral systems. The likelihood of this assumption not holding is considered low.
- Introducing measures for a regulatory environment further facilitating access to the formal labour market for refugees. Due to the current economic situation and in view of Turkish general elections planned for June 2023 it is unlikely that new measures would be introduced during this period. On the other hand, it is expected that the current regulatory environment will continue to be in place. This assumption will be regularly monitored during the implementation of this action.
- System’s procedures and oversight mechanisms are sufficient to prevent the abuse of the system for political, patronage or financial reasons. Given the scale of the action, the stakeholders involved and the level of monitoring and expenditure verification in place by the Commission, the risk that this assumption will not hold is considered relatively low.
- The political situation in the country remains relatively stable, despite the impact of COVID-19, and the government continues to accept assistance for affected populations. Since the beginning of the Facility, Turkish authorities have been showing their continued commitment to address the Syrian humanitarian crisis. There are no indications that this would change, although a change of policy after the 2023 general elections should not be ruled out.
- Security conditions support access to ESSN recipients, and field access can continue to a degree if not impacted by COVID-19. Efforts of relevant institutions to continue to provide assistance to eligible refugees during the COVID–19 bode well that, in case of any additional wave of the pandemic, access to ESSN support will not be interrupted. The likelihood of this assumption not holding is considered low.

3.5. Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that no refugee household is confronted with a situation in which it cannot meet its basic survival needs (food, heating, clothing, and housing). In order to help households meet their basic needs the ESSN and C-ESSN programmes are providing eligible households with an unconditional monthly cash transfer. The action, as the continuation of the ESSN under the continued EU financial assistance for refugees and host communities in Türkiye, will continue to focus on cash assistance of eligible refugees while, when appropriate, referring to specialised protection services and sustainable livelihoods opportunities.

The strategy aiming to support refugees in Türkiye to meet their basic needs is captured in the Specific Objective which underlines that regular resource transfers to the eligible refugees are provided in an effective and efficient manner so as to support meeting their basic needs, while enabling pathways to protection responses and referrals to sustainable livelihoods opportunities. The support system in place will contribute and support refugees in meeting their basic needs, although it is not designed to cover them fully. The achievement of the Specific Objective (the effective provision of cash assistance, referral to protection services and livelihood opportunities) is expected to automatically result in the recipient's improved ability to meet his or her basic needs.

The achievement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the system in delivering cash to the most vulnerable refugees in a regular and reliable manner (Specific Objective) is supported by four Outputs which focus on: improving efficiency and effectiveness of the system in delivering the assistance; delivering of timely and regular cash payments; strengthening referral pathways of potential protection cases to protection services; and developing livelihood referral and information exchange pathways to increase employability of suitable ESSN beneficiaries.

3.6. Indicative Logical Framework Matrix

Results	Results chain: Main expected results	Indicators	Baselines (values and years)	Targets ¹⁴ (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To support the refugees in Türkiye to meet their basic needs	1) Average reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) score for the target population 2) Score of Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI) for the target population 3) Percentage of households with acceptable food consumption scores (FCS)	1) 11,17 (2022) 2) 4,5 (2022) 3) 51,1% (2022)	1) 2) 3)	C-ESSN and ESSN Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Survey	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	1. To provide efficiently and effectively regular resource transfers to the eligible refugees to meet their basic needs, while enabling pathways to protection responses and referrals to sustainable livelihood opportunities	1.1) Percentage of ESSN recipients who are satisfied or very satisfied with the overall assistance it provides 1.2) Percentage of household expenditure on essential needs 1.3) Percentage of households who report being able to meet the basic needs of the HHs according to their priorities	1.1) 83% (2022) 1.2) 70,96% (2022) 1.3) 31.7% (2022)	1.1) 1.2) 1.3)	1.1; 1.3) Satisfaction Survey 1.2) C-ESSN and ESSN Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Survey	- Effective level of assistance to significantly reduce the use of negative coping strategies
Output related Outcome 1 1 to	1.1 An efficient cash transfer cycle was enhanced, implemented and coordinated	1.1.1) Number of staff trained (disaggregated by gender, profession, place of duty) 1.1.2) Percentage of ESSN applicants who are aware of ESSN criteria	1.1.1) 1.1.2) 45% (2022)	1.1.1) 1.1.2)	1.1.1) Project reports 1.1.2) Satisfaction Survey	- Eligible refugees will be effectively identified and supported (effective targeting)
Output related Outcome 1 2 to	1.2 Eligible refugees have received resource transfers to meet their basic needs	1.2.1) Number of refugees receiving unconditional regular resource transfers with this Action 1.2.2) Percentage of sweepbacks among total distribution	1.2.1) 1,538,708 (2022) 1.2.2) 0.33%	1.2.1) 1.2.2)	1.2.1) MoFSS eligibility list, payment list 1.2.2) Financial Service	- Coordination mechanisms in place between the relevant IPs.

					Provider (FSP) reporting platform		
Output related Outcome 1	3 to Outcome 1	1.3 Referral pathways were strengthened through safe and timely identification and referral of potential protection cases to protection services	1.3.1) Number of referrals identified with potential protection risks to relevant actors for specialised services 1.3.2) Number of individuals provided with appropriate and updated information on relevant rights, services and entitlements	1.3.1) 4645 (2022) 1.3.2) 103,948 (2022)	1.3.1) 1.3.2)	1.3.1) Outreach and Referral Report 1.3.2) Registration and Application, Outreach and Referral units, TRC Call Centre	Infrastructure for protection and livelihoods referrals is established
Output related Outcome 1	4 to Outcome 1	1.4 Livelihood referral and information exchange pathways were developed and maintained to increase employability of suitable ESSN recipients	1.4.1) Number of individuals referred to livelihood opportunities through the ESSN Livelihood Referral Mechanism 1.4.2) Number of visits to local authorities to disseminate information and carry out advocacy on livelihood referral mechanisms.	1.4.1) 1081 (2022) 1.4.2) 1064	1.4.1) 1.4.2)	1.4.1) Monthly livelihoods referral report, Referral and Outreach data 1.4.2) Outreach and Referral monthly report	

¹⁴ Targets for each specific indicator (and baseline for indicator 1.1.1) will be agreed with the Ministry of Family and Social Services and the Turkish Red Crescent during the contract negotiations, and will be identified in the specific Description of the Action and Logical Framework of the contract.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Financing Agreement

It is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the Republic of Türkiye to implement this action.

4.2. Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3.1 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 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 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 measures¹⁵.

4.3.1. Direct Management (Grants)

a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The purpose of the grant is *to provide efficiently and effectively regular resource transfers to eligible refugees to meet their basic needs, while enabling pathways to protection responses and referrals to sustainable livelihood opportunities.*

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye and the Turkish Red Crescent (as co-beneficiary) for the implementation of the action, in line with article 195 (c) and (f) of the Financial Regulation.

Whereas the Ministry has the relevant *de jure and de facto* monopoly for the provision of social assistance schemes in the Republic of Türkiye, it has set up a unique partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent for the provision of care, and more specifically the provision of cash assistance, to refugees in Türkiye.

4.3.2. Changes from indirect to direct management (and vice versa) mode due to exceptional circumstances

If for circumstances outside the Commission's control the grant under direct management cannot be awarded to the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye, the whole (or part of the) action will

¹⁵ 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.

be implemented in indirect management with a pillar-assessed entity¹⁶. The envisaged entity will be selected via the following criteria:

- previous experience in the delivery of assistance to refugees in the area of basic needs,
- proven experience in the management of projects of a similar nature and value,
- prior experience in the Republic of Türkiye,
- established fruitful cooperation with the Turkish authorities in the area of migration management and refugees.

4.3.3. 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, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or 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).

4.4. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf section 4.3	
Outcome 1 - <i>The basic needs of eligible refugees are covered, while their linkages to protection responses and sustainable livelihoods opportunities are strengthened, composed of:</i>	400 000 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	400 000 000
Grants – total envelope under section 4.3.1	400 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	will be covered by another Decision
Communication and visibility – cf. section 6	will be covered by another Decision
Contingencies	Not Applicable
Totals	400 000 000

4.5. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The action shall be under the overall responsibility of the Directorate General of Social Assistance (DGSA) and the activities will be directly implemented by various departments and delegated bodies of the Ministry of Family and Social Services at central and local level in direct partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC).

¹⁶ The signature of a contribution agreement with the chosen entity is subject to the completion of the necessary pillar assessment.

The action foresees a three-pillar governance structure which includes the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), the Project Management Team (PMT) and the TRC Working Group (TRC WG).

The PIU will be composed of the staff designated by respective units of the MoFSS and TRC. The PIU will be responsible for full project implementation, reporting to the Director General of Social Assistance in the Ministry of Family and Social Services on the progress of the action and on required modifications in view of strategic decisions. PIU will also ensure that the responsibilities regarding delivery, quality check, control and approval of reports and documents defined in the contract are duly performed.

The PMT will be in charge of the day-to-day implementation of the action and act as the operational and technical support unit of the PIU. It will be in charge of implementation, M&E, ensure Communication and Visibility of the action and drafting of the project technical documentation i.e: Interim Narrative and Financial Reports, Monthly Progress Reports, ad hoc documentation requested by the Commission.

The TRC WG will work with PMT to ensure the smooth implementation and accountability of the action in coordination with the TRC experts assigned to PIU. TRC staff of WG and PIU will form a joint work stream at the technical level that will report to the PIU for final decision-making on technical aspects.

A Steering Committee will be set up and meet in order to:

- Guide the management board and ensure that the interests of Türkiye and the EU are fully represented.
- Ensure the secretariat of the Committee, setting the agenda for each meeting, ensuring that agendas and supporting materials are delivered to members in advance of meetings; ensuring that minutes of the meeting and agreed action points are circulated to all Steering Committee members.
- Manage and task any technical working group(s) that are established to provide technical solutions to complex problems that arise as part of planning, programming and implementation.
- Ensure that obstacles critical to implementation are tackled effectively and resolved in a timely fashion. These may be based on recommendations from Technical Working Group(s) established under the auspices of the Steering Committee.

The Commission, represented by the EU Delegation to Türkiye, will co-chair the Steering Committee meetings.

Moreover, regular meetings at both steering level and technical level will be held so as to ensure full complementarity and avoid duplication with other actions that also provide support to refugees in meeting their basic needs, including the C-ESSN programme. Other actions implemented in the context of the Facility for Refugees or additional refugee support made available by the Commission following June 2021 that aim to improve resilience and livelihoods opportunities should also be closely associated to this action, in a concerted and overarching framework encompassing basic needs and livelihood support actions. Engagement in livelihoods and other inter-sector discussions, participation in the regular socio-economic development coordination meetings organised by the EU Delegation shall ensure complementarity and coordination with the other EU interventions on the way.

An improved structured way to share data of ESSN beneficiaries and promote their integration in the livelihood as well as job opportunities arising from the socio-economic portfolio of projects funded by the EU need to be explored together with all stakeholders actively involved in implementation. The socio-economic investment programmes funded by the EU for poverty reduction and transition of the current caseload of the ESSN beneficiaries into the labour market have explicit focus on employment and new job creation.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the European Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

4.6. Pre-conditions

Pre-conditions for the implementation of this action is the agreement of the Presidency of Migration Management, who recently took over from the Vice-Presidency Office of the Republic of Türkiye the overview and monitoring of the EU financial assistance in relation to the refugee crisis, and of the Ministry of Family and Social Services on the overall proposed framework for the continuation of supporting basic needs and livelihoods opportunities for refugees in Türkiye. Ongoing discussions on the management of this grant by the Ministry shall be finalised by the time this action document is adopted. In case an agreement will not be reached, the fall-back option detailed under section 4.3.2 shall apply.

This new action will avoid any overlapping of activities with the current contract managed by DG ECHO and implemented by IFRC in cooperation with TRC (ESSN III).

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 Outputs and contribution to the achievement of its Outcomes, and if possible at the time of reporting, contribution to the achievement of its Impacts, as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix.

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:

The implementing partners will be the primary actors responsible for data collection, analysis, monitoring and reporting. Beside reporting on their specific components' logframe matrix as per General Conditions and contractual documents, the Implementing Partners will be collecting and submitting data to the Commission on a quarterly basis, on relevant indicators of the overall Results Framework that has been developed in the context of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey (and it is applicable to the continued EU refugee support to Türkiye implemented under this action).

Internal monitoring by the Commission will be also carried out, with the support of an external contractor, and will consist of activities such as:

- Analysis and feedback on actions' reporting documents and data;
- Assessment of the quality of actions' internal monitoring systems and where required, plans/provides support to improve them (e.g. provision for periodical "data cleaning"; check for mistakes and look for duplications, systematic misunderstanding, or missing data; support data users in understanding them: how they are collected, what they mean)
- Attendance to actions' Steering Committee meetings and other meetings, information sharing and discussion;

Missions/visits to premises/actions' sites where activities are taking place and on-the-spot checks.

5.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, an evaluation may be carried out for this action.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partners 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 shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partners and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

The financing of the evaluation shall 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.

6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

All entities implementing EU-funded external actions have the contractual obligation 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. To that end they must comply with the instructions given in the 2022 guidance document [*Communicating and raising EU visibility: Guidance for external actions*](#) (or any successor document).

This obligation will apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, the partner country, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU Member States. In each case, a reference to the relevant contractual obligations must be included in the respective financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

Visibility and communication measures specific to this Action shall be complementary to the broader communication activities implemented directly by the European Commission services and/or the EU Delegations and Offices. The European Commission and the EU Delegations and Offices should be fully informed of the planning and implementation of the specific visibility and communication activities, notably with respect to the communication narrative and master messages.

The financing of the communication and visibility activities for the overall programme concerning the further support to refugees and host communities financed by the European Commission will be covered by another Commission decision.