

Subject: EU Budget 2022

Dear [Mr Sánchez](#),

The **VOICE network, representing 86 European humanitarian NGOs** would like to share observations regarding next year's EU humanitarian aid budget, and ask for more money to be dedicated to humanitarian assistance from the beginning of 2022.

As the Council and European Parliament begin **conciliation talks** on the Commission's proposal for the 2022 annual budget, we would like to draw your attention to the humanitarian needs that this budget will be responding to, and what you can do to help.

With the support of private donors, the general public and institutional donors, NGOs are the main implementers of humanitarian assistance, working closely with crisis-affected communities across the globe, in often insecure environments and in partnership with local organisations, the UN, and the Red Cross movement.

Current humanitarian needs worldwide are at the highest in decades, driven by natural and man-made crises, and exacerbated by the global COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, 235 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection. This represents 1 in 33 people in the world, in comparison to 1 in 45 persons in 2020 ([UN Global Humanitarian Overview 2021](#)).

What do [we] [humanitarian NGOs] need for effective humanitarian operations?

- **Member States and the European Parliament should increase the humanitarian budget proposed by the European Commission for 2022.**

The [European Parliament's reading on the Draft Budget 2022](#) proposes **an increase of around 300 million euros for humanitarian aid**. We would like to strongly encourage you to support the EP's position on this point as well as to ensure that funds from the **Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR) can be mobilised for humanitarian crises outside the EU throughout the whole financial year**.

Why? The impacts of climate change, conflicts, and protracted crises have led to ever more internal displacement, water shortages, food insecurity, extreme poverty, and suffering. Syria, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Venezuela, and Bangladesh are just a few of the 56 countries facing great challenges. These erode people's coping strategies and resilience and increase their overall vulnerability to sudden onset crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. While supporting the vitally needed response to COVID-19, the EU must continue to play its part in helping to address the systemic and growing shortfall in global humanitarian funding.

- **The EU budgetary authority should maintain payments that are equal to commitments to help ensure timely and predictable funding.**

Why? Quality, efficient, and effective aid operations need timely, predictable and flexible funding. The current situation where the payments are at least as high as the commitment appropriations for humanitarian assistance helps achieve this. The Commission's proposal for the 2022 budget maintains this approach, which Member States and the European Parliament have agreed to since 2014.

We hope that you can take these recommendations into account when negotiating the EU annual budget for 2022.

Yours sincerely,