



Brussels, 1.8.2024
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 1.8.2024

**on the financing of the special measure on EU support for vulnerable Lebanese and
Refugees from Syria and for durable solutions for refugees from Syria 2024-2025**

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on the financing of the special measure on EU support for vulnerable Lebanese and Refugees from Syria and for durable solutions for refugees from Syria 2024-2025

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046¹ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/947² of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009, and in particular Article 23(1) and Article 23(4) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the special measure on EU support for vulnerable Lebanese and Refugees from Syria and for durable solutions for refugees from Syria 2024-2025, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing Decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2024-2025.
- (2) The envisaged assistance should comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU³.
- (3) The measure provided for in this Decision should contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with the Commission Communication 'The European Green Deal'⁴ and in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources⁵.
- (4) The objectives pursued by the special measure to be financed under the Neighbourhood geographic programme of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 should support Lebanon's efforts in hosting refugees from Syria for the benefit of both refugees and

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

³ 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.

⁴ COM(2019)640 final of 11 December 2019.

⁵ OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

vulnerable host communities and activities to enhance long term sustainability of voluntary, safe and dignified returns in Syria. Activities will be carried out in Lebanon and in Syria.

- (5) The special measure is justified by the Syrian crisis and its effects on Lebanon, in particular the presence of a high number of refugees from Syria. The response to the Syrian crisis in Lebanon answers to rapidly evolving and severe needs on the ground due to the largest peace-time socio-economic and financial crisis. It will be funded in line with the commitments and financial pledges of the Brussels VII and Brussels VIII Conference on Syria⁶. As such, it cannot be programmed.
- (6) The action entitled ‘EU support to education in Lebanon’ will contribute to support vulnerable children in reaching their full potential through improved literacy and numeracy skills and qualifications delivered by a resilient and quality public education system.
- (7) The action entitled ‘EU support to access to essential primary health care services in Lebanon’ will contribute to strengthen Lebanon’s health systems to improve Universal Health Coverage, improving access to equitable, inclusive, accessible, affordable and quality primary healthcare and health commodities including vaccinations and essential medicines.
- (8) The action entitled ‘EU support to essential water and sanitation services in Lebanon’ will contribute to the development of effective, reliable and self-financed public water and wastewater services in Lebanon’.
- (9) The action entitled ‘EU support to improve resilience for vulnerable Lebanese and refugees from Syria and for durable solutions for refugees from Syria, including safe, voluntary and dignified returns” will contribute to improving living conditions and resilience for refugees from Syria and host communities and for durable solutions for refugees from Syria, including safe, voluntary and dignified returns. .
- (10) The objective and design of all actions fulfil the criteria for Official Development Assistance (ODA) established by the OECD/DAC, as per the requirements of Article 3(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, contributing to the sustainable development of partner countries and the implementation of the 2030 agenda. The countries benefiting from the action which are included in the list of ODA recipients, are identified in the respective action document.
- (11) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (12) Pursuant to Article 62(1), point (c) of the Financial Regulation, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the measure.
- (13) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of the Financial Regulation.
- (14) To that end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation

⁶ https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/65267/2023_06_15_chairstatement.pdf

and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation⁷ before a contribution agreement can be signed.

- (15) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (16) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the measure, it is appropriate to determine the changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (17) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the NDICI-GE Neighbourhood Committee.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1 *The measure*

The multiannual financing Decision, constituting the multiannual work programme for the implementation of the special measure on EU support for vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian Refugees and for the creation of the conditions for safe, voluntary, and dignified returns for 2024-2025, as set out in the annexes, is adopted.

The measure shall include the following actions:

- ‘EU support to education in Lebanon’ set out in Annex I;
- ‘EU support to access to essential primary health care services in Lebanon’ set out in Annex II;
- ‘EU support to essential water and sanitation services in Lebanon’ set out in Annex III
- ‘EU support to improve resilience for vulnerable Lebanese and refugees from Syria and for durable solutions for refugees from Syria, including safe, voluntary and dignified returns’ set out in Annex IV

Article 2 *Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the measure for 2024-2025 is set at EUR 368 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line 14.020110 of the general budget of the Union.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2025, following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

⁷ Except for the cases of Article 154(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where the Commission may decide not to require an ex-ante assessment

Article 3
Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annexes, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.3.1 of the Annexes I, III and IV and 4.3.3 of Annex II.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases⁸ or decreases of up to EUR 10 million and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in Article 2, first paragraph, considering each financial year separately, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, provided that these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 5
Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annexes. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annex selected in accordance with point 4.3.1 of the Annex II.

Done at Brussels, 1.8.2024

For the Commission
Olivér VÁRHELYI
Member of the Commission

⁸These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing Decision.