

# European Humanitarian Forum Forum humanitaire européen



24-26 JAN, 2022



18 November 2021

## The European Humanitarian Forum (EHF) Latin America and the Caribbean Consultation no. 2

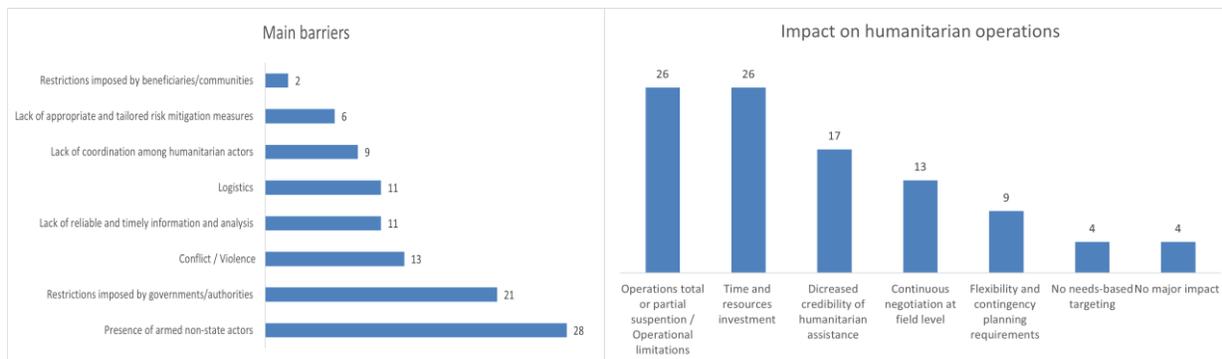
### 'Reinforcing humanitarian access in the Latin America and the Caribbean'

#### Flash Report

The **Latin America and the Caribbean region** organised a series of consultations ahead of the **European Humanitarian Forum (EHF)** planned in Brussels between the 24 – 26 January, 2022. The 18 November saw the second field consultation taking place, namely on humanitarian access. This was led by DG ECHO Regional Office in Panama for LAC with the attendance of colleagues from ECHO Panama RO and Colombia, Venezuela and Haiti COs.

The consultation was held on 18 November 2021. Hosted by DG ECHO Regional Office in Panama, it was attended by 41 people (26 external and 15 DG ECHO) representing about 21 organizations between key Partners (UN, IOs, INGOs, Red Cross) as well as representatives from civil society, national and local organizations, and regional stakeholders (i.e. ICG, MSF). Representatives of DG ECHO Regional Office in Panama and of Country Offices of Colombia, Venezuela and Haiti, as well as of DG ECHO Antenna additionally participated as observers due to the high and shared interest in the topic.

Similar to the previously held consultations on localisation, the event was opened by the Head of Regional Office who focused on the background of the EHF in Brussels, and then facilitated by DG ECHO LAC Thematic Expert. A brief overview of the survey results was also shared, in addition to five short presentations by partners from different contexts sharing in plenary their experiences and best practices.



Aiming at defining concrete recommendations on how to tackle the growing limitations to humanitarian access in the region, three parallel discussions were then held on (i) coordination and advocacy, (ii) presence of armed non-state actors and potential negotiations, (iii) administrative and government-related barriers in the response.

The Latin American and the Caribbean context is becoming increasingly complex and the risk landscape to the delivery of assistance is shrinking humanitarian space and access. Participants identified a broad ranging challenges and opportunities, and clear recommendations and priorities to inform further discussion, elaboration, and review at the EHF in January 2022. For instance, the paramount need to support efforts for coordinated risk analysis and collective access strategy to protect humanitarian space, as well as budgetary and flexible direct costs to strengthen humanitarian actors' safety and capacities.

Strong advocacy from donors stands crucial to increase visibility and awareness of most urgent needs, enhancing negotiation opportunities for the humanitarian community with authorities and governments. The broader dissemination of humanitarian principles to all stakeholders, including communities and armed non-state actors, is necessary to ensure broader understanding of the specific humanitarian mandate. While Nexus complementarities need to be sought in a more systematic and coherent manner, the sharp separation from political and security objectives is paramount not to jeopardise humanitarian access and to action.

A readout of the session has been prepared to be presented in the EHF main session.