Salient One analysis

Regional Programme – Protect Aid Workers

Donor: European Commission — DG ECHO

Location: Neighbourhood, Middle East, South-West and Central Asia

Deadline: Rolling applications

Rolling applications

Call description

Purpose: Protect humanitarian workers affected by critical incidents, violence, detention or threats to safety and well-being, supporting their safety and recovery and continued humanitarian assistance.

Target location: Neighbourhood, Middle East, South-West and Central Asia — Regional scope; Gaza, Yemen, Afghanistan and Syria are examples of severe crises, not an exhaustive country list. Applies to: Neighbourhood, Middle East, South-West and Central Asia.

Target population: Humanitarian workers from national and international NGOs facing critical incidents or threats due to their work; the programme primarily targets local aid workers and local frontline responders. A dedicated mechanism supports Red Cross and Red Crescent National Society workers; the Red Family Fund supports families of workers and volunteers killed in the line of duty.

Funding and response priorities

The total call funding is EUR 3,500,000 (Indicative 2026 HIP allocation; round 1 is up to this amount for activities protecting humanitarian personnel. The Commission may withhold all or part or allocate funding to regional or multi-country interventions.)

Duration: 48 months — Maximum action duration. Follow-up extensions may be requested by modification for operations funded under a previous HIP; the approach may also apply, as appropriate, to multi-annual HIP strategies.

Activities

Illustrative activities:

- Specialised legal assistance for detention and judicial proceedings; emergency medical care and trauma treatment; crisis counselling and long-term mental-health services; emergency financial assistance and equipment replacement.

Required activities:

- Help local humanitarian organisations build duty-of-care protocols and systems for national partners; provide security-management and risk-assessment training and technical assistance for incident management.

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Required activities:

- High-level dialogue with government authorities and conflict parties; joint platforms with international and local actors; strategic communications campaigns; support a Community of Practice and advocacy for stronger protection systems.

Who can apply

Applicants must meet the following conditions: DG ECHO partner status; Excluded: NGO partner organisations that fail to submit audited financial statements on time without proper justification; NGO partner organisations that do not offer sufficient financial-capacity guarantees, assessed using liquidity and solvency ratios in their latest externally audited statutory accounts. Applies to: DG ECHO partners.

Action eligibility date — required: The applicable date is the later of the eligibility date in the Single Form and the HIP eligibility date; for amendments to existing agreements, use the eligibility date in the initial agreement.

Conditions that materially affect an application

Grant co-financing — required: Resources required to carry out the action must not be provided entirely by the grant; Exception: Full grant financing is permitted only where essential to carry out the action; justify this in Single Form section 10.4.

EU funding conditionality — required: Awards using EU funds must respect applicable Conditionality Measures under Council Implementing Decisions; Excluded: Legal commitments under direct or indirect management with public-interest trusts established under Hungarian Act IX of 2021, including listed or affiliated entities maintained by them, under Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506.

Submission and timing

Application deadline: Rolling applications — Single Forms may be submitted at any time during the year following publication.

Applications are submitted through APPEL.

Start date: 1 January 2026.

Submission format: Single Form (new requests).

Sources

ec.europa.eu - Call document

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Salient One analysis. Official call documents and amendments govern the funding conditions.
Selected passages represent only part of echo_-rn_bud_2026_91000_v1.pdf.

Regional programme - Protect Aid Workers — Humanitarian Implementation Plan 2026 (ECHO/-RN/BUD/2026/91000); echo_-rn_bud_2026_91000_v1.pdf; thematic_policies_annex_2026.pdf: PDF conversion can omit pages, columns, tables and annexes. Compare this preview with the original; no OCR or page-completeness guarantee.