EN
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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.4.2026)

The Financial Regulation[1] sets out detailed rules for the selection and award of funds to entities, based on objective criteria. In the case of humanitarian support, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) need to undergo an assessment of their systems, rules and procedures identified in the Humanitarian Aid Regulation[2], the Financial Regulation and international best practices[3], before becoming certified under the EU Humanitarian Partnership 2021-2027 and being able to apply for EU humanitarian funding.

Islamic Relief Worldwide did not undergo the ex-ante assessment and hence cannot apply for EU humanitarian funding. Further, Islamic Relief Sverige (Swedish NGO) and Islamic Relief Humanitäre Organisation in Deutschland e.V. (German NGO) met the criteria and were certified under the EU Humanitarian Partnership 2021-2027. Since their certification, neither organisation has received EU humanitarian funding.

As a matter of principle, the Commission does neither discriminate on grounds of religion or beliefs nor classify partner organisations based on religious affiliation.

The Commission takes a 'zero tolerance' approach to any misconduct by partner organisations receiving EU funds and will act should it become aware of any proven evidence in this respect. The safeguarding of the proper use of EU funds is further ensured by various mechanisms (for example, regular monitoring of NGOs to ensure their continued compliance with the standards mentioned above, suspension of contract or payments and contract termination) framed by the Financial Regulation and relevant agreements concluded with recipients of EU funds.

[1] Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.09.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj).
[2] Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid (OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1996/1257/oj).
[3] In particular, for what relates to internal control systems, ethical standards, antifraud, anti-corruption and safeguarding policies. See more here: https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/ngo/humanitarian-partnership-2021-2027/how-to-become-a-partner.