

Common Humanitarian Funds (CHF) are country-based pooled funds that provide early and predictable funding to NGOs and UN agencies for their response to critical humanitarian needs. CHFs enable Humanitarian Country Teams—who are best informed of the situation on the ground—to swiftly allocate resources where they are most needed, and to fund priority projects as identified in a Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP), or a similar humanitarian action plan.

CHFs were born out of the 2005 Humanitarian Reform, which called for improved timeliness of and accountability for humanitarian financing. The first two CHFs were established in 2006 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Sudan.

CHFs mainly provide core funding to projects included in a CAP and they enable humanitarian actors to respond to protracted crises. CHFs also maintain an emergency reserve used for unforeseen emergencies and new priorities in a crisis. The reserve typically does not exceed 10 per cent of total CHF funds.

CHFs are under the authority of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), with support from OCHA and UNDP for the fund's day-to-day management and financial administration.

An Advisory Board, which includes donor, UN and NGO representatives, advises the HC on policy and strategic issues.

CHF allocations are based on a consultative process that engages sector and cluster groups and other relevant stakeholders at the country level in a comprehensive prioritization exercise. CHFs typically undertake two standard-allocation rounds per year, which allocate the bulk of available funding. The HC can also launch special allocations to respond to specific needs or emergency contexts, as required.

The size of a CHF varies by country (usually between US\$50 million and \$120 million per year), but should be commensurate to the overall size of the humanitarian operation so that it can make the desired impact.

CHFs are replenished through voluntary contributions, mainly from UN Member States. Contributions are received and managed by the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF).

National and international NGOs, UN agencies, the International Organization for Migration and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement are eligible for CHF funds.

CHFs are complemented by other pooled-funding mechanisms, such as the Central Emergency Response Fund. They work in close coordination within the strategic priorities defined by the Humanitarian Country Team and the CAP.

CHFs facilitate the coordination of response activities through a detailed consultation process with humanitarian partners at different levels in-country, in order to fill critical gaps and avoid duplication. CHFs also actively promote local NGOs' access to humanitarian funds, thus increasing response opportunities for local actors in areas where international organizations face access challenges due to security or political issues.

CHFs are active in DRC, Sudan, Central African Republic, Somalia and South Sudan.

For more information on CHFs, please visit the MPTF Gateway: <http://mptf.undp.org/> and the OCHA website: [www.unocha.org/what-we-do/humanitarian-financing/pooled-funds](http://www.unocha.org/what-we-do/humanitarian-financing/pooled-funds).



*Credit: OCHA Sudan*