

South Sudan Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF)
2016 First Round Standard Allocation Strategy Paper - draft

Introduction

1. At its meeting on 24 November 2015 the CHF Advisory Board agreed to prepare for the launch of the 2016 first round standard allocation.

2. Based on current commitments, it is anticipated that around \$20 million will be available in the CHF to support allocations at the beginning of 2016. A further \$20 million is expected to become available during the first quarter of 2016. This allocation round will therefore be for the amount of \$40 million. The CHF Advisory Board will establish cluster envelopes for around \$20 million to support top priority projects and for which funds can be disbursed once currently committed amounts are deposited; and for around a further \$20 million to support projects for which funds would be disbursed if and when additional funds become available².

Item	Amount \$ ¹	Remarks
Current MPTF balance:	\$3.7m	At 20 Nov 2015
Outstanding obligations	\$3.6m	2015 allocations under finalisation
Australia	\$5.2m	Committed (paperwork in progress)
Norway	\$2.7m	Committed (paperwork in progress)
Sweden	\$5.7m	Committed (paperwork in progress)
UK	\$7.7m	Committed (paperwork in progress)
Other	\$20.0m	Estimated for first quarter 2016
Less fees and adjustments	\$1.4m	Estimated
Total for this allocation round	\$40.0m	Subject to confirmation of exchange rates and fees

3. Allocation decisions will take into account funding from other non-CHF sources, including from the CERF.

Humanitarian response plan

4. The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2016 will encompass two strategic objectives: 1) save lives and alleviate suffering through safe access to services with dignity, and 2) ensure communities are capable and prepared to cope with significant threats. Outcomes towards these are achieved through the respective cluster response plans.

5. The HRP is based on an analysis of needs, as set out in the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO). Humanitarian needs result from multiple and interlocking threats – armed conflict and inter-communal violence, economic decline, disease, and climactic shocks – that have affected an estimated 8.7 million people since late 2013. Some 2.3 million people have been displaced from home, including around 634,000 who have fled to other countries. Hunger is rampant, with 3.9 million people facing severe food insecurity. Some 686,000 children are acutely malnourished, 231,000 of them severely. Nearly one in every three schools has been closed, compromising the education of some 900,000 children, including some 350,000 forced out of school. An estimated 16,000 children have been recruited into armed forces, and more than 10,000 children have been identified as unaccompanied, separated or missing. Rape and sexual violence is widespread. Death rates exceed emergency thresholds in eight out of 33 counties surveyed, with malaria, respiratory infections and diarrhoeal disease among the main causes.

6. The HRP will aim to assist around 5 million people with a financial requirement of around US\$1.3 billion³. The plan recognises that the scale of needs will continue to outstrip financial resources and the collective response capability, necessitating robust prioritisation. Strategic elements in order to meet targets include a rationalised, targeted and coordinated response; securing access; staying and delivering, including through collective approaches to the management of safety and security; advocating for respect for international humanitarian law and human rights law; engaging with existing community structures to strengthen capacity; and ensuring the centrality of protection across all aspects of the response.

Parameters for endorsement and prioritisation of cluster strategies, and determination of cluster envelopes

7. This allocation round will provide resources in support of the *most critical elements of the humanitarian operation during the dry season at the commencement of the 2016 HRP*. Cluster strategies will focus on the first HRP strategic objective of *saving lives and alleviating suffering through safe access to services with dignity* but may also incorporate approaches which support the second objective of ensuring communities

¹ All figures are estimates, subject to confirmation of exchange rates and fees.

² Note that some revalidation of the design of these projects may be required to reflect the time at which funding becomes available.

³ The HRP remains under finalization at the time of writing.

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are capable and prepared to cope with significant threats. After the launch of the allocation process, clusters will develop and defend cluster-specific strategies for this allocation round, following which cluster envelopes will be determined. Cluster strategies should consider the following:

- a) activities that directly address life-threatening risks and vulnerabilities, in locations where these are most critical
 - Cluster strategies should be informed by credible evidence that provides a comparative understanding of where risks and vulnerabilities are most critical, based on the HNO and HRP.
 - Cluster strategies should clearly demonstrate how the most critical survival needs will be addressed, and should be informed by the CERF life-saving criteria and guidance⁴.
- b) activities that best capitalise on the window of opportunity offered by the dry season
 - Cluster strategies should incorporate approaches that maximize front line assistance during the dry season. This may include a focus on partners with static presence on the ground and capacities to scale up response, as well as alternative modalities such as rapid or mobile response.
 - Where relevant, cluster strategies may include elements that support the continuity and cost effectiveness of assistance during the ensuing wet season⁵.
- c) activities in support of essential common humanitarian services that pertain to life-saving strategies
 - Cluster strategies may encompass common services that are essential in enabling most critical life-saving activities to take place in locations where needs are most severe. Common logistics services for the transportation and storage / accommodation of cargo and personnel, common security and communications services, and common (core) pipelines are eligible for consideration.
- d) activities that are feasible to implement at the beginning of the year
 - The limited resources available under this allocation round are to be put to use at the beginning of 2016. In the face of insecurity and other access constraints, cluster strategies should include a compelling articulation of approaches that will ensure feasibility of implementation.
- e) support to the refugee response and food aid are not eligible⁶.

Notes:-

Following the launch of this allocation strategy paper the clusters will develop and defend their cluster specific allocation strategies including priorities and funding requirements, before calling for proposals from cluster partners. In this way, individual project proposals will only be accepted and considered after cluster propositions have been reviewed, prioritised and endorsed by the CHF AB and cluster funding envelopes established.

Accordingly this allocation strategy paper makes high level statements about the humanitarian situation and gives overarching parameters for the development of cluster specific allocation strategies. Templates and guidance will be provided.

In an attempt to streamline processes, clusters were requested during the 2016 HRP development process to consider parameters for the use of CHF funding at the beginning of the year. As such the thinking and analysis required for the design of the cluster strategies for this allocation round has been started.

Separate guidance and tools will be provided for subsequent steps in the allocation process, including for the prioritisation and recommendation for funding of individual project proposals.

⁴ The Central Emergency Response Fund. https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CERF/FINAL_Life-Saving_Criteria_26_Jan_2010__E.pdf

⁵ As examples, the dry season may be an opportunity for: pre-positioning of core emergency supplies (however this should be seen in relation to existing inventories, supply chain lead times, as well as risks of confiscation and looting); and infrastructure repairs and works (however these should be seen in the light of execution capacities and completion times).

⁶ Support to the refugee response and food aid are excluded from this allocation round due to the overall magnitude of their requirements which are supported by bilateral funding arrangements, and compared to which the resources available to the CHF are relatively small.