I. Allocation Overview

Project Proposal Deadline: (06/04/2018, Beirut time: 23:00)

A) Introduction / Humanitarian situation

This strategy paper is for a total of USD 6.5 million focusing on most vulnerable population groups: People with Specific Needs, GBV survivors, Palestinian Refugees from Syria and their host communities.

Now in its seventh year, the Syria crisis has had a profound humanitarian, socio-economic, and political impact on Lebanon and its people. As of October 2017, the Government of Lebanon (GoL) estimates that the country hosts 1.5 million Syrians who have fled the conflict in Syria (including 997,905 million registered as refugees with UNHCR), along with 34,000 Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS), 35,000 Lebanese returnees, and a pre-existing population of more than 277,985 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL). This has placed unprecedented strain on the country’s economy, infrastructure, and public services.

Despite efforts, however, the needs of affected communities are outpacing the resources and capacities of partners, and coping mechanisms of the most vulnerable are being severely tested. This is especially the case for population groups for which funding has been curtailed (Palestinian refugees from Syria), People with Specific Needs (PwSN) and Sexual/Gender-Based Violence Survivors.

The Lebanon Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Philippe Lazzarini, has decided to launch a Standard Allocation to address priority needs of these 3 most vulnerable groups.

B) Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP)

This allocation is closely aligned with the 2018 update of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and directly contributes to 2 of the LCRP strategic objectives:

1. **Ensure protection of vulnerable populations:** Recognizing that the imperative of protecting people lies at the heart of humanitarian action, this response objective aims to strengthen protection services and interventions for displaced persons from Syria and vulnerable populations, empower individuals and mainstream protection across all sectoral interventions. It promotes protection of, and access to, affected people in accordance with relevant instruments of international refugee and human rights law ratified by Lebanon.

2. **Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations:** This response objective addresses the immediate needs of the vulnerable populations (displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestine Refugees from Syria and Palestine Refugees in Lebanon), prioritizing the most vulnerable through temporary solutions, with the aim to mitigate the rapid deterioration of social and economic conditions.

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1 Out of $6.5 million, $500,000 will be allocated through a fast track Reserve Allocation to cover Legal Assistance for through UNRWA to prevent discontinuation of activities; and $6 million through the regular Standard Allocation process.

2 People with Specific Needs include: elderlies, socially marginalized groups, individuals suffering from trauma, and persons with disabilities (PwDs),
II. Allocation Strategy

A) Purpose of the Allocation Strategy and linkages to the LCRP

Under the 2018 LCRP Strategic Objective 1 and Strategic Objective 2, the aim of this allocation is to use a people-centered approach to address most urgent the needs of 3 particularly vulnerable groups: PRS, PwSN and SGBV survivors, as prioritized by the Sectors.

This Allocation strategy is aligned with the overall LHF strategy endorsed by the Advisory Board, which focuses on:
- emergency funding for rapid, life-saving interventions to flexibly provide support when it is most urgently needed,
- targeting the most vulnerable groups, including extremely deprived Syrian refugees and Palestine Refugees from Syria, as well as vulnerable Lebanese host communities, with a special focus on underfunded areas of response,
- funding activities not covered by other donors or of special concerns,
- supporting prevention of tension and conflicts, especially in the context of the 2018 elections
- increasing the financial volume of funds channeled through NNGOs, as per Localization/Grand Bargain Commitments, to 60% of the LHF’s allocations

Resources overview

Funding Projections for 2018 (incl. carry over): $20 million
- Current Programmable amount (incl. carry over): $10.9 million
- Pledges (signed but not paid): $2.2 million
- Potential (preliminary discussions): $4.5 million
- Gap (resource mobilization): $2.4 million

Projected Allocations for 2018
- Reserve for Emergencies: $2 million
- Available for this allocation: $6.5 million
- Available for future allocations: $2.4 (programmable) / $4.6 (incl. pledges)

B) Allocation Breakdown

The rationale of this allocation is anchored in the analysis of available information on current humanitarian needs, ongoing response and subsequent gaps. 3 groups were clearly identified as targets for several sectors, and are the object of this Allocation: PRS, PwSN and SGBV survivors, as prioritized by the Sectors.

Palestinian Refugees from Syria

PRS have been impacted directly by the Syria crisis and are considered of the most vulnerable (around 34,000 Palestine refugees from Syria are displaced in Lebanon). The 2018 decision by the United States Government to reduce its contribution to UNRWA has led to a shortfall of funding and threatens the delivery of urgent humanitarian activities in Protection, Basic Assistance, and Health. It is worth noting that UNRWA is the sole provider of multipurpose cash programme to this specific population cohort prioritized by the LCRP. If the programmes are discontinued, these families will be left without any form of assistance. The support to PRS has also been prioritized by other CBPFs in the region and the CERF.

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3 To support the cross-sectoral prioritization of needs, a secondary data review was conducted, including, but not limited to: 2018 LCRP update, VASyR (especially the recommendations), KAR II (perception survey), Coordination Survey, EOY LCRP Funding update, FTS. Criteria were discussed with the Inter-Sector coordinators. Within each sector, the priorities were identified by the Sectors.
PwSNs:
PwSNs, including older persons, individuals suffering from trauma, socially marginalized groups and persons with disabilities (PwDs), constitute the most vulnerable population groups among both the displaced and host communities. These individuals continue to face challenges to accessing their basic rights and services. Based on initial findings from the 2017 Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees (VASyR), it is estimated that approximately 14% of displaced households assessed include persons with physical or mental disabilities. In addition, 2.7% of the refugees registered with UNHCR are above 60 (female-55% and male-45%). In Lebanon, 10% of PRL and eight percent of PRS have mental and physical disabilities, with one in four older persons (60+ years) affected. Women, girls and boys with disabilities are among the most vulnerable to neglect, abuse, and exploitation. Needs continue to exceed what service providers can address including the provision of rehabilitation services, assistive devices and mental health care.

Limited access to and availability of specialized rehabilitation services has aggravated the marginalization of persons with specific needs (PwSNs). Due to the lack of adequate services, in 2017, only 1,854 persons with disabilities received support from Sector partners, representing a mere 20 percent of the sector target.

There is limited understanding of the special needs and abilities of older people and a lack of capacity to ensure the full inclusion of this group. As a result, older people face increased challenges in accessing basic services and meeting basic and specific needs because these services are rarely made inclusive and accessible for these groups. The limited availability of services for older people has significant implications on those with specific needs, such as those living with physical disabilities. The vulnerability of individuals and communities to the risks that displacement creates depends on the strength of their coping mechanisms. The most important coping mechanism for older people, and in particular those with specific needs, is often family and community support networks. For older refugees adjusting to new environments and surroundings, knowing where and how to access support and services is a major challenge. If needs are not met, it can lead to increased social isolation and reduced access to services.

GBV survivors
Data collected through the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS), agency assessments, focus group discussions, and protection monitoring highlight that displacement increases the risk of SGBV. Ninety-three percent of reported incidents occurred in Lebanon. Married girls, including child mothers, adolescent girls, unaccompanied and separated boys and girls, women and girls with disabilities, older women, female heads of households and socially marginalized groups continue to be the most at risk. Additionally, cases are reportedly getting increasingly complex in terms vulnerabilities and response services needed.

The most commonly reported types of violence, on the basis of the GBVIMS, domestic violence, sexual violence as well as forced and child marriage. Disclosing incidents of SGBV remain extremely challenging for several reasons, including a widespread acceptance of violence, fear of retaliation, religious beliefs, or belief that no one can help. Several barriers still prevent women, girls, men and boys in need of SGBV services, including: disruption of services due to humanitarian funding gaps; documentation requirements; restrictions on mobility, high costs and limited availability of specialized services, such as legal services, safe shelter, mental health; and lack of self-reliance opportunities.

Neither female nor male survivors will seek help if safe access to age, gender and diversity sensitive quality services is not guaranteed and sustained. For example, the majority of residential shelters are implementing strict eligibility criteria, preventing access to some persons at high risk, such as boy survivors (as young as nine) and survivors with mental health conditions.

This is further explained by data reported through the Gender- Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS), which indicated that in quarter one 2017, 47% of survivors declined legal assistance services, while 40%
in quarter one 2016. Data analysis shows that access to security/protection services remains challenging for marginalized groups. Continued attention and focus is required to ensure access to legal services with the goal of expanding access to justice to obtain remedy, including in cases of abuse and exploitation, and supporting completion of relevant civil documentation.

C) Eligibility and Prioritization of Projects

Requirements
- Only potential partners (INGO, NNGOS, Red crescent and UN agencies) registered on the Grant Management system with approved due diligence and finalized capacity assessment (except for UN agencies) are eligible to submit a project proposal within 2018 1st standard allocation
- Partners must check their risk level on GMS before project submission and adhere accordingly to the LHF operational modalities (Annex 1: LHF Operational Manual), noting that the risk level affects the maximum/ceiling of the proposal’s budget.
- All partners are requested to liaise with their respective LCRP sector coordinator during project proposal preparation to discuss proposed interventions. Please refer to the LHF Operational Manual for process related issues. (please refer to Annex 3: Sector contact details)
- Organizations must use the LHF online Grant Management platform for the submission of project proposals under 2018 1st standard allocation tab/window (offline submission will not be considered)
- Projects are designed to start on the 15 June 2018 (the earliest)

NB: Grant Management clinics will be open on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th of April 2018 from 10:00 till 16:00 (4pm) at OCHA HFU offices. Interested applicants are requested to book their spots 3 working days in advance by sending an email to Ms. Lea Abou Mousa (aboumoussa@un.org).

Criteria for Strategic/Technical Review Committees:
As per the Country-Based Pooled Fund Global Guidelines, the following criteria are used for prioritization of projects:
- Strategic relevance
- Programmatic relevance
- Cost effectiveness
- Management and monitoring

On top of these generic project prioritization criteria the following criteria will be added for this allocation:
- Multi-sectorial projects aiming at providing an integrated approach to the 3 targeted vulnerable groups are encouraged.
- Projects will be reviewed to include the following cross-cutting themes: Accountability to Affected Populations, gender and environment markers, and the sustainability of project strategies.
- Budgets in line with sector standards in terms of cost per beneficiary

Eligible activities per cohort are detailed in the table below. Please note that projects do not need to be limited to one Sector, but could have varying sub-Sectors or be multi-Sector (up to 3 Sectors, as per table below), or cover more than 1 target group.

4 An example of a ScoreCard is available in the Annexes to the CBPF Guidelines (Annex 9) : https://www.unocha.org/our-work/humanitarian-financing/country-based-pooled-funds-cbpfs/cbpfs-guidelines

About Country-based Pooled Funds (CBPFs):
CBPFs allow donors to pool their contributions into single, un earmarked funds to support local humanitarian efforts. This enables humanitarian partners in crisis-affected countries to deliver timely, coordinated and principled assistance.
### Target group(s) | Sector | Priorities | Geographical areas
---|---|---|---
GBV Survivors | Protection | GBV / Case management | Tripoli, Akkar, Nabatieh, South, Bekaa, Hermel, Mount Lebanon
GBV Survivors | Protection | GBV / Emergency and safe accommodation services for survivors at high risk including — safe shelter services, safe accommodation (individual residential units, financial support for rent) | Tripoli, Akkar, Nabatieh, South, Bekaa, Hermel, Mount Lebanon
GBV Survivors | Protection | GBV / Specialized services (Legal; Clinical Management of Rape (CMR); Mental health/Psychiatric and psychotherapy services, helplines) | Tripoli, Akkar, Nabatieh, South, Bekaa, Hermel, Mount Lebanon
GBV Survivors | Protection | GBV / Tailored services for GBV survivors with disabilities; mental health disorders; elderly; adolescent girls | Tripoli, Akkar, Nabatieh, South, Bekaa, Hermel, Mount Lebanon
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III. Timeline and Procedure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Step</th>
<th>What</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Key Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation</td>
<td>1 Development of the Draft Sector Priorities</td>
<td>Sector Prioritization</td>
<td>SC, OCHA</td>
<td>8 March 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Development of the Draft Allocation Paper</td>
<td>HC and Sector Priorities</td>
<td>OCHA</td>
<td>Till 19 March 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Sector feedback on Draft Allocation Paper</td>
<td>Draft Allocation Paper</td>
<td>SC, OCHA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 HC/Advisory Board Strategy Endorsement (meeting or email, etc.)</td>
<td>Draft Allocation Paper</td>
<td>HC, AB</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 Launch of Allocation Paper</td>
<td>Allocation Paper</td>
<td>OCHA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal Development and Review</td>
<td>6 Proposal Development Phase and submission on the Grant Management system</td>
<td>Proposal Preparation</td>
<td>IP, SC</td>
<td>19 March 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 GMS clinics at HFU (spot to be booked in advance)</td>
<td>Proposal Preparation with the support of the HFU</td>
<td>IP, OCHA</td>
<td>3-4 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 Proposal Submission Deadline</td>
<td>Proposal Preparation</td>
<td>IP</td>
<td>6 April 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 Strategic Review</td>
<td>Strategic Project Prioritization</td>
<td>SRC, OCHA</td>
<td>9 April till 20 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 HC/Advisory Board proposal endorsement</td>
<td>HC and AB endorse Sector portfolios/projects</td>
<td>HC, AB</td>
<td>23 April till 27 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 Technical and Financial Review</td>
<td>Technical review of endorsed projects; IP feedback</td>
<td>TRC, OCHA</td>
<td>30 April till 25 May</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 Proposal Revision and Adjustments</td>
<td>IPs address feedback, OCHA final clearance</td>
<td>IP, OCHA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Approval</td>
<td>13 Grant Agreement Preparation</td>
<td>GA prepared/start date agreed with IP</td>
<td>OCHA</td>
<td>28 May till 10 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 HC Grant Agreement signature</td>
<td>HC approves project</td>
<td>HC</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>15 IP Grant Agreement signature</td>
<td>IP signs / start of eligibility</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Disbursement</td>
<td>16 Grant Agreement final clearance</td>
<td>GA cleared and signed</td>
<td>OCHA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17 First disbursement</td>
<td>Payment request processed</td>
<td>OCHA</td>
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Please note that:

- Partners are requested to submit their project proposals online by close of business by 06 April 2017 via the Grant Management System (GMS) at cbpf.unocha.org. Submission of projects will not be possible after the deadline.
- Applications must be submitted in English due to OCHA auditing requirements.
- The HFU is pausing Due Diligence and Capacity Assessment reviews during the Allocation.

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IV. HFU Information and Complaints Mechanism

Additional information
To ensure continuous and sufficient information sharing to stakeholders, all the HFU products and documents will be available on GMS. Relevant OCHA policies and guidelines on Country Based Pooled Funds (CPBFs) can be also found at: https://www.unocha.org/our-work/humanitarian-financing/country-based-pooled-funds-cbpfs/cbpfs-guidelines

HFU Contacts
For additional information and clarification applicants are invited to contact the Fund Manager, Magalie Salazar (salazar@un.org), the Fund Programme Associate Yendi Ghossein (ghossein@un.org) and the Fund Finance Officer Dana Khawaja (khawaja2@un.org) copying the OCHA Head of Office (fustier@un.org).

Complaint Mechanism
LHF stakeholders with insufficiently addressed concerns or complaints regarding the Fund processes or decisions can at any point in time write to lebanonhumanitarianfund@un.org with these concerns. The HoO will share with the Advisory Board such concerns or complaints review, address and, if necessary, raise the issues to the HC, who will then take a decision on necessary action. Please send any complaints with the subject line “LHF COMPLAINT”.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA):
OCHA LHF has a zero tolerance for abuse and misconduct including sexual exploitation and abuse.

List of Acronyms
AB Advisory Board
CMR Clinical Management of Rape
CPBF Country Based Pooled Funds
GBV Gender-Based Violence
GBVIMS Gender-Based Violence Information Management System
HC Humanitarian Coordinator
HSC Secondary Health Care
HFU Humanitarian Financing Unit
IP Implementing Partner
LCRP Lebanon Crisis Response Plan
LHF Lebanon Humanitarian Fund
OCHA Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PRS Palestine Refugee from Syria
PSEA Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PwSN)
People with Specific Needs
SC Sector Coordinators
SGBV Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SRC Strategic Revision Committee
TRC Technical Revision Committee

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V. Annexes

Annex 1: Lebanon Operational Modalities;

Annex 2: Budget preparation guidance; or links and/or references;

Annex 3: Sector contacts;