THE SHF THANKS ITS DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT IN 2021

Credits
This document was produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Syria. OCHA Syria wishes to acknowledge the contributions of its committed staff at headquarters and in the field in preparing this document.

The latest version of this document is available on the SHF website at https://www.unocha.org/syrian-arab-republic/about-syria-hf.

Full project details, financial updates, real-time allocation data and indicator achievements against targets are available at CBPF DataHub.

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Front Cover
Vulnerable families received essential Non-Food Items including mattresses, blankets and basic kitchen sets. ©WW-GVC

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Financial data is provisional and may vary upon financial certification
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FOREWORD

I am pleased to share with you the 2021 Annual Report for the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF). As in previous years, the SHF played a critical role in bringing essential life-saving assistance to Syrian families and communities in times of dire need. Over four million people – most of them women and children – received much-needed assistance in 2021 thanks to the SHF and the generosity of its donors.

During the year, the SHF allocated over US$66 million to 113 projects undertaken by over 50 national and international humanitarian partners. Mid-year, the SHF provided $37 million to support the delivery of critical assistance to under-served communities in the newly assessed rural areas of Aleppo, southern Idleb, northern Hama, eastern Homs, Dar a and the north-east. As the water crisis intensified towards the end of the year, the SHF provided $20 million to scale up water and sewage systems rehabilitation, ensure delivery of nutrition, health and winterization assistance, and strengthen efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

The ability of the SHF to respond quickly and with flexibility to address urgent needs proved invaluable. Throughout the year the Fund allocated $5 million to assist the most vulnerable people in Deir-ez-Zor immediately following the first needs assessment; $1 million to support the humanitarian air services to keep operations running at a critical time; and $3 million to procure medicines and vital medical supplies in response to the fourth wave of COVID-19 pandemic.

The results speak for themselves. Through the SHF, partners provided food and agricultural assistance for over 500,000 people, protection support for 416,000 people, core relief items and winterization support for 100,000 people, shelter assistance to 36,000 households, access to water for 175,000 people, and much more.

Working with and listening to Syrian communities, and supporting local responders are key elements of the SHF’s work. Some two-thirds of SHF funding supported national and international non-governmental organisations and the Red Crescent, with a quarter going to national and local partners.

In 2021, the SHF made significant improvements in monitoring and risk management. Through strengthened grant management mechanisms and improved internal controls, the Fund met its requirements on all five risk management pillars: monitoring missions, financial spot checks, narrative reports, financial reports, and audits. Moreover, the SHF conducted many additional financial spot checks and monitoring missions, including donor missions, beyond the required number.

At the time of writing, the humanitarian situation in Syria is unquestionably daunting. Despite decreasing levels of active conflict, humanitarian needs have continued to rise in recent years because of a deepening economic crisis, continued displacement and recurring climatic shocks. Over 90 per cent of Syrians now live in poverty and a staggering 14.6 million need some form assistance. Record levels of food insecurity, severe water scarcity and limited access to basic services, such as health care and education, are stretching coping capacities and pushing families into destitution. The people of Syria need our continued support now more than ever.

In my travels, I have seen firsthand the value of the SHF’s work for Syrian families and communities, in terms of their basic survival and their pursuit of a more resilient, sustainable and dignified future. As we move into 2022, the SHF is in an excellent position to play a central role in scaling up efforts to provide timely, flexible and accountable assistance to the most vulnerable across Syria.

I take the opportunity to express my gratitude to donors and to our partners, both national and international, for their continuous support and confidence in the Fund. I count on our mutual commitment to further strengthen the SHF in 2022, so that we may continue to make a difference for the people of Syria.

IMRAN RIZA
Humanitarian Coordinator for SYRIA
The Syria Humanitarian Fund plays a unique and critical role in supporting the provision of essential aid and protection to millions of people in Syria.

— IMRAN RIZA
Humanitarian Coordinator for SYRIA

SHF supported access to safe drinking water for vulnerable families in northern rural Hama. ©OCHA
Humanitarian situation in 2021

The protracted crisis in Syria has intensified over the past year. A complex and deepening socio-economic crisis, the knock-on effects of COVID-19, and major losses in food production (high cost of agriculture inputs, including fuel, reduced access to water, climate change and other production-related shocks) have all compromised the national food security situation. As the Syrian crisis marked ten years, the situation deteriorated drastically. About 13.4 million people were in need, up from 11.1 million in 2020.

Food security and malnutrition crisis

Overall, the food security situation in Syria worsened in 2021. The national average price of a standard reference food basket increased by 97 per cent between December 2020 and December 2021. This is the highest ever price since monitoring started in 2013. The national average informal exchange rate weakened by 21 per cent over the last year, reaching SYP 3,543/USD in December 2021, causing the price of main food items, especially imported goods, to increase drastically and further limiting people’s access to food.

In line with the rise in food insecurity, malnutrition levels have increased. In 2021, 4.9 million mothers and children required urgent nutrition supplies in Syria, where most of the nutrition needs are in high severity areas. Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates have more than doubled since last year. Over the same period (2020-2021) stunting increased from 531,000 to 553,000, the number of children under-five with acute wasting increased from 173,000 to 245,000, while a record 265,000 pregnant and lactating women have acute wasting.

Close to three in four households report food as their number one priority need, influenced by financial distress and price fluctuations. With 41 per cent of average household expenditure going to food, families’ ability to afford other goods and services – for example, water, fuel, electricity, and education for children – is diminished.

Water crisis

Since May 2021, the humanitarian situation in northeastern Aleppo and Deir-ez-Zor, Al-Hasakeh and Ar Raqq Governorates deteriorated further due to significantly reduced water availability and access. Unprecedentedly low water levels in the Euphrates River, and low water flows into the principal water reservoirs in north-east Syria reduced people’s access to water. Low and erratic rainfall during the 2020/2021 winter season (October-March) and higher-than-average temperatures, led to drought-like conditions in the region during the second quarter of 2021, severely affecting agricultural production. Finally, recurring shutdowns and reduced operational capacity of Alouk water station, supplying about 500,000 people in Al-Hasakeh city and surrounding areas; and other disruptions to the water system, including the Al-Khafsa water station and the Ein El-Bayda water pumping station, further magnified the crisis.

These factors have severely limited access to water in some major towns and cities. The situation has affected public health, as households consume unsafe water and have less water for domestic use, including hygiene and sanitation. The prevalence of water-borne diseases in the affected areas has risen, placing additional strain on a public health system already debilitated by years of crisis and overburdened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Disease outbreak

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic had a long and severe fourth wave in 2021, resulting in shortages of life-saving medicines across all public health...
facilities in Syria. The national stock of medicines in public warehouses was alarmingly low – on average only 20 per cent of the needs were met. Only six per cent of the standard required supply of certain types of anticoagulants (blood thinners) and anesthetic medicines were available. As of 7 December 2021, only about five per cent of the population was vaccinated for COVID-19 in government-controlled areas and north-east Syria due to delays in vaccines supplies. The extremely limited vaccine coverage contributes to the high risk of infections, and it is estimated that at least 20 per cent of cases require hospitalization. As a result, the needs for COVID-19 related medicines remain high, while economic factors and overall market deficits worsen the situation.

Protection crisis

Complex and interconnected protection issues continued to worsen in 2021 in an overall context of limited access to humanitarian services, rights, justice, and accountability. Civilians in parts of the country, including north-west, north-east and Southern Syria, are exposed to ongoing and new hostilities, resulting in civilian casualties and forced displacements.

The deteriorating economy and widespread poverty, loss of livelihoods, destruction of housing and property, protracted and multiple cycles of displacement, shortage of natural resources, and continuing pandemic exacerbate protection needs. Contamination with explosive ordnances affects people’s daily lives in newly accessible areas and areas of potential return. On average, two out of three survivors of explosive incidents sustain lifelong impairment and require ongoing assistance. The contamination with explosive ordnances also keeps farmers from agricultural activities.

The protection crisis increases people’s reliance on negative coping mechanisms such as child labor, child recruitment, begging, and early/forced marriage. Protection concerns disproportionately affect women and adolescent girls, children, older people, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable people. If unaddressed, the protection consequences can have irreversible effects, particularly on women, children and elderly.

Internal displacement and returns

In 2021, the number of internally displaced people increased from 6.7 million to 6.9 million. Some 346,995 newly displaced people were registered from January to August 2021. New displacements occurred throughout the year near the front-line areas of Aleppo and Idleb governorates and in Dar’a following the hostilities in the summer (June-August) of 2021. As of August 2021, in southern Idleb, 2,800 displaced people returned to Sanjar, Tamarraaah, Khan Shaykun, and Ma’arrat An Nu’man. Unprecedented levels of destruction were reported, with about 50 per cent of infrastructure and housing damaged. In north-east Syria, particularly in the newly assessed areas with increasing numbers of returnees, the high level of infrastructure destruction, inadequate shelter, limited availability of core services and basic commodities, and the scarcity of job opportunities are driving high humanitarian needs.

2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
4 Nutrition Sector, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022
5 Ibid.
6 Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022
7 Data collected by the Mine Action partners
8 UN-lead Population Task Force, August 2021
9 Ibid.
VISION STATEMENT

The 2021 strategic vision of the Fund was developed at the beginning of the year in consultation with the Humanitarian Coordinator and the SHF Advisory Board.

Considering the large increase in humanitarian needs over the last year, the changing operating context, and critical underfunding of the response in Syria, the strategy included the following priorities:

- **Address top and new priorities** identified by the Humanitarian Coordinator, Sector Coordinators, Area Coordinators, and humanitarian organizations on the ground. The strategy included the use of Standard Allocations to support the delivery of priority activities planned in the Humanitarian Response Plan and Reserve Allocations to respond to new unforeseen emergency needs.

- **Allocate funding to avoid disruption of critical services** and ensure the delivery of essential assistance to the most vulnerable people and to promote principled, needs-based response. This includes pursuing complementarity with allocations from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and allocating funding in consideration of other humanitarian funding flows.

- **Expand delivery of assistance** to underserved, high-severity areas, and newly assessed areas in partnership with the best placed organizations, taking advantage of the newest information from the humanitarian partners on the ground.

- **Promote localization**: While prioritizing best placed partners to deliver the response, the SHF, where possible, supported local and national partners that had access and capacity to implement. The Fund also expanded the pool of eligible national and local partners for SHF funding.

- **Promote centrality of protection**: The SHF required all partners to integrate protection in project proposals, including prevention of and protection from gender-based violence; ensuring that services are tailored to the specific needs of women, men, girls, and boys; and that they are available to diverse groups including persons with disabilities, the elderly, and female-headed households.

- **Strengthen resilience of affected communities** with a focus on essential infrastructure repair, service revitalization, and creating linkages with early recovery programming.

- **Improve the relevance and coherence of the humanitarian response** by ensuring that funds are strategically allocated based on the needs identified in the Humanitarian Needs Overview and within the parameters set in the Humanitarian Response Plan. Independent assessments of needs and priorities identified by the area Humanitarian Country Teams and partners on the ground also informed allocations.

The strategy included a particular emphasis on key principles of effective programming that the SHF championed in 2021 through delivery of thematic trainings to partners and providing them with dedicated guidance on these areas. The Fund also considered the adherence to these principles during the strategic review of project proposals for funding.
2021 TIMELINE

First inter-agency needs assessment mission to Der ez Zor
Dec

Worsening of the food security situation due to deteriorating socio-economic situation, knock on effects of Covid-19, and major losses in the food production.
Jan

WFP reported that the number of food insecure people reached a record 12.4 million, or nearly 60 per cent of the country’s population.
Feb

New official exchange rate announced with an increase from SYP 1,250/USD to SYP 2,500/USD causing the price of main food items to drastically increase.
Mar

The first batch of over 250,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine arrived in Syria from the UN-backed COVAX initiative to cover the country’s frontline health workers.
Apr

Intensification of needs in Aleppo, Deir ez-Zor, Al-Hasakah and Ar-Raqqa Governorates due to the water crisis.
May

Deterioration of the water crisis compounded by Abook water station that stopped functioning affecting north-east Syria.
Jun

The national average price of WFP’s standard food basket reached its highest recorded level since monitoring started in 2013.

WHO reported that Syria is in the worst COVID-19 situation in the region with the highest number of cases, low vaccination rate (2.4 per cent) and rising death rate.
Oct

UNHASC reported a critical funding gap putting air services at risk of interruption.

The GoS received the second batch of COVAX-supplied COVID-19 vaccines - over 1.3 million doses.
Nov

Onset of harsh winter conditions

Acute shortages of COVID-19 medicines and medical supplies due to the longest and most severe wave of Covid-19 pandemic
Dec

Contributions in million USD

Allocations in million USD

SHF Reserve Allocation for integrated response to critical needs in Deir ez Zor and Rural Damascus
6.1

SHF Standard Allocation to support priority HRP interventions in underserved and newly assessed areas
37.2

CERF allocation for critical life-saving activities in chronically underfunded sectors
22

SHF Reserve Allocation to scale up the water crisis response and to bolster the provision of winter-appropriate assistance
20

SHF Reserve Allocation to bridge two-month funding gap for UNHASC enabling the continuation of air services for the humanitarian community
4.1

SHF Reserve Allocation for procuring life-saving medicines, medical supplies, and ventilators; equipping COVID-19 case management centers; and strengthening diagnostic capacity of national laboratories
3

1.9
2021 IN NUMBERS

$53M CONTRIBUTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea (Republic of)</td>
<td>0.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jersey</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab Gulf Programme</td>
<td>0.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>For Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Donations (through UNHCR)</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In USD million

$66.2M ALLOCATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aleppo</td>
<td>13.2M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ar-Raqqa</td>
<td>15.4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Hassakeh</td>
<td>15.4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deir-Ezzor</td>
<td>13.4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hama</td>
<td>4.0M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homs</td>
<td>2.5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damascus</td>
<td>2.5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quneitra</td>
<td>2.5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Damascus</td>
<td>5.0M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>总计</td>
<td>66.2M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other regions: Aq Sarrada: 12.9K people, 0.2M; Lattakia: 155K; 3.9M; Tartus: 59K people; 0.6M; S. Syria: 5.9K, 1 AM.

4M PEOPLE ASSISTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>People Assisted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.49M Boys</td>
<td>170K Boys with disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.49M Girls</td>
<td>166K Girls with disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>562K Women</td>
<td>86K Women with disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>470K Men</td>
<td>84K Men with disability</td>
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</table>

ALLOCATIONS BY SECTOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Security</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Shelter and NFI</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Recovery</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistics</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In USD million

53 PARTNERS

113 PROJECTS

$13M National NGOs
21 Partners
38 Projects

$25.7M International NGOs
21 Partners
50 Projects

$66.2M Total allocations

$0.5M United Nations
10 Partners
24 Projects

In USD million
Donor contributions

Donors continued to show trust and support for the SHF, contributing $53 million between January and December 2021, with $23 million carried over from 2020. The generous funding allowed the SHF to support humanitarian partners implementing urgent and life-saving humanitarian activities in Syria.

Donors’ commitments and contributions in December 2020 and early 2021 enabled the Fund to allocate resources to respond to critical humanitarian needs in Deir-ez-Zor and Rural Damascus. Some 4 per cent ($2 million) of funds deposited in 2021 were available by the end of the first quarter, and 80 per cent of all 2021 deposits ($42.5 million) reached the Fund in the first half of the year. The contributions came on top of end-of-2020 deposits, a mix of final 2020 contributions from some donors and early 2021 contributions. This allowed the SHF to launch one of its largest-ever allocations in the first half of the year. Early and predictable contributions are crucial, as they give stakeholders enough time to prioritize funds strategically.

While the SHF remained pivotal in addressing critical humanitarian needs in Syria, the overall contributions to the Fund declined from $71.9 million in 2019 to $55.3 million in 2020 and $53 million in 2021. By the end of 2021, the SHF accounted for approximately 3 per cent of the total Syria HRP funding.

Donor funding to the SHF and its subsequent allocations complemented other funding sources, particularly $22 million received for Syria response in 2021 from Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) which addressed the immediate lifesaving needs of about 1.5 million people. The two pooled funds worked together to prioritize the most vulnerable, including displaced people, children, female-headed households, the elderly, persons with disabilities and those with chronic diseases in key locations.
Donor trend

Donors have supported humanitarian action in Syria through the SHF since its inception in 2014. From 2014 to 2021, 23 donors contributed $335 million to the Fund to support the critical life-saving and life-sustaining humanitarian interventions. In 2020, contributions decreased by 23 per cent from $71.9 million in 2019 to $55.3 million, followed by a four per cent decrease to $53 million in 2021.

The donor base became more diversified, and the number of donors significantly increased from five in 2014 to 18 in 2021. The SHF welcomed the first contribution from the Arab Gulf Programme for Development in 2021.

The top five donors to the SHF since 2014 are: Belgium ($54 million), the United Kingdom ($49 million), Norway ($48 million), Sweden ($45 million) and Denmark ($30 million). Out of $335 million contributed by donors to the SHF from its inception in 2014, the top five donors provided about 68 per cent ($226 million).

The target for donor contributions was consistent with 2020 - $100 million. In 2021, with the contributions totaling $53 million, the target was only 53 per cent reached.
Allocations overview

STRATEGIC STATEMENTS

First Reserve Allocation: Meet critical needs in newly assessed areas
In December 2020, the UN conducted its first inter-agency needs assessment mission to southern Deir-ez-Zor, which revealed critical unmet humanitarian needs. Out of 25 attacks on health facilities from January to October 2020, seven occurred in Deir-ez-Zor and one in Rural Damascus. In addition, monitoring reports showed that as of November 2020, about 60 per cent of people in need in Rural Damascus had not been reached. The SHF allocated $5 million in January 2021 to meet the critical humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable people in Deir-ez-Zor and Rural Damascus. The allocation focused on providing integrated education, food, health, shelter, and water assistance.

First Standard Allocation: Support response to increasing humanitarian needs
The deteriorating socio-economic situation, knock-on effects of COVID-19, water crisis and major losses in food production intensified needs in Syria in 2021. When key areas of the response were in urgent need of funding at mid-year, the SHF launched an allocation of $37 million to enable the delivery of lifesaving assistance to the most severely affected people in targeted priority locations. The allocation focused on providing integrated assistance in the newly assessed rural areas in Aleppo, southern Idleb, northern Hama, eastern Homs, Dar’a, coastal area, and north-east Syria.

Second Reserve Allocation: Address the effects of the water crisis
In the last quarter of the year, the worsening water crisis put pressure on food security, livelihoods, public health, and education provision. In addition, there was a critical need for winterization assistance. The SHF allocated $20 million to support the immediate scale-up of the water crisis response and provide winter-appropriate assistance. The allocation focused on the priority activities included in the Water Crisis Response Plan and Non-food Item (NFI) Sector Winterization Response Strategy (September 2021 - March 2022). The allocation included cash assistance for the most vulnerable families, rehabilitation of water pumping stations and sewage networks, nutrition assistance for infants and young children, and protection against gender-based violence.

Third Reserve Allocation: Ensure humanitarian air services
In December, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) faced a critical funding need and risked suspending its operations. UNHAS operates in Syria to ensure reliable, and sustainable air access for the humanitarian community to the areas with challenging and unpredictable access by road. The humanitarian cost of the disruption of UNHAS services, even if only temporary, would be enormous and would put millions of people at risk of not receiving essential humanitarian assistance. The SHF allocated $1 million to ensure the continuation of UNHAS services in Syria. The allocation enabled UNHAS to maintain flights twice weekly between Damascus and Qamishli and Damascus and Aleppo, and to maintain medical evacuation capability for humanitarian personnel until funding from other sources was available.
Fourth Reserve Allocation: Emergency support to health facilities

Towards the end of the year, the WHO reported that the response to the ongoing longest and most severe wave of COVID-19 pandemic was hampered by shortages of life-saving medicines across the public health facilities in Syria. The shortages limited proper case management of hospitalized patients, increasing the risk of transmission. The SHF allocated $3 million to address emergency needs in health facilities in response. The funding enabled the procurement of life-saving medicines, vital medical supplies, ventilators, and equipping COVID-19 case management centers and strengthening the diagnostic capacity of national laboratories.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Launch</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5.1M</td>
<td>First Reserve Allocation</td>
<td>January 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$37.2M</td>
<td>First Standard Allocation</td>
<td>June 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20M</td>
<td>Second Reserve Allocation</td>
<td>October 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1M</td>
<td>Third Reserve Allocation</td>
<td>December 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3M</td>
<td>Fourth Reserve Allocation</td>
<td>December 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CASH ASSISTANCE FOR VULNERABLE FAMILIES

Sara is one of the persons supported with voucher assistance in Rural Damascus funded by SHF and implemented by ZOA. © ZOA

Names used in this story are not real.
**ANNUAL REPORT**

**SHF 2021 OVERVIEW**

**ALLOCATIONS BY TYPE**

- **$29M** Reserve allocations
- **$66.2M** Total allocations (56%)
- **$37.2M** Standard allocations (35%)

**PEOPLE ASSISTED BY TYPE**

- Host Communities: 1.71 million
- Internally Displaced People: 1.54 million
- Returnees: 0.49 million
- Refugees: 0.24 million
- Other: 0.03 million

**ALLOCATIONS BY STRATEGIC FOCUS**

- **$34.4M** SD1
- **$7.9M** SD2
- **$23.9M** SD3

**PEOPLE ASSISTED BY SECTOR**

- Health: 3.5 million
- WASH: 0.5 million
- FSA: 0.5 million
- Protection: 0.4 million
- ERL: 0.2 million
- Nutrition: 0.1 million
- S/NFIs: 0.1 million
- Education: 0.01 million
- Logistics: 0.03 million

**ALLOCATIONS FLOW BY PARTNER TYPE**

- **$66.2M** Total allocations
- **$27M** UN Agencies
- **$25.7M** INGOs
- **$13M** NNGOs
- **$0.5M** Other
- **$59.3M** Direct implementation
- **$2.73M** UN
- **$2.3M** NNGOs
- **$1.16M** Other
- **$0.72M** Sub-granting
HIGHLIGHTED ACHIEVEMENTS

PROMOTING LOCALIZATION
The engagement of local and national partners improved in 2021. The number of national and local partners that received SHF funding increased from 15 implementing 27 projects in 2019 to 22 implementing 39 projects in 2021. In addition, the Fund expanded training in 2021, reaching 234 staff from 34 national and local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

In 2021, over 20 per cent of SHF funding was allocated directly to local and national partners (19.7 per cent to local and national NGOs and 0.8 per cent to Syrian Arab Red Crescent). Local and national partners received over 5 per cent of funding through sub-granting, primarily by UN agencies and international NGOs. As a result, local and national partners received more than a quarter of 2021 SHF funding.

Apart from implementing a large portion of SHF funding, local and national partners have influence over policy directions of the Fund through their representation in the SHF Advisory Board and various fund mechanisms, such as Strategic Review Committees.

EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMING

KEY PRINCIPLES FOR INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING

Strengthening Accountability to Affected People
In 2021, SHF strengthened Accountability to Affected People (AAP) in two working streams: (1) better articulation and implementation of community engagement activities by SHF partners, and (2) SHF direct engagement with assisted people to receive feedback.

SHF partners raised awareness and shared information through door-to-door visits, focus group discussions, surveys, post-distribution monitoring, and complaint boxes. Affected people’s feedback was not only essential to inform satisfaction with aid provided and its relevance to their needs, and to understand humanitarian needs on the ground better. SHF conducted remote calls to 383 people receiving assistance to monitor the quality and timeliness of service delivery of 38 SHF-supported projects—four times more than in 2020. The Fund conducted the calls through a random sampling approach based on lists of assisted people. Results showed that 96 per cent of people surveyed confirmed satisfaction with services received. The SHF communicated people’s feedback to relevant partners to address their concerns and improve the quality of program delivery. The SHF conducted 10 focus group discussions directly with 105 people who received assistance from nine SHF-funded projects, and all of them reported satisfaction on service delivery.

Promoting the Centrality of Protection
In 2021, six per cent of SHF funding (or $4.18 million/11 projects) was allocated to projects under the Protection Sector, including Gender-Based Violence, Child Protection, and Mine Action. This contributed positively to ensuring that 416,000 vulnerable women, men, girls, and boys received assistance, focusing on most at-risk groups (for example, adolescent girls, divorced and widowed women and girls, women and girls with disabilities and older women).

The Fund requires all projects to integrate protection into the project cycle based on Do No Harm principles. The 2021 Standard Allocation included a multi-sector envelope with prioritized protection actions as a core component of comprehensive assistance.

Addressing gender equality and responding to Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
The Fund required partners to apply Gender with Age Marker (GAM) in all project proposals for SHF funding. Accordingly, 95 per cent of SHF-funded projects in 2021 contributed to promoting gender equality, and 76 per cent showed attention to the specific needs of different age groups.

Through strengthened attention to Accountability to Affected Populations, the Fund required partners to consult diverse groups of community members on project design, ensure engagement and information sharing with people in need during the project implementation, and put in place complaints and feedback mechanisms. This strengthened gender and age-sensitive programming and ensured an inclusive space to engage with diverse groups of affected people throughout the project cycle.

Of 2021 SHF allocations, eight projects included specialized Gender-based violence (GBV) protection services, including assistance to 2,030 GBV survivors in Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Dar’a, and Rural Damascus.
Including Persons with Disabilities

In 2021, SHF assistance to persons with disabilities doubled from 223,000 people in 2020 to 507,442 people in 2021. SHF partners made strides at the operational level to include persons with disabilities through enhanced data collection in assessments and reports, and participation in response planning.

The SHF engaged with the Disability Working Group and the Victim Assistance Working Group (within the Mine Action Area of Responsibility under Protection Sector) to ensure that SHF-funded projects include measures addressing the needs of persons with disabilities.

AREAS OF CONTEXTUAL PROGRAMMING

Advancing Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

Twenty SHF-funded projects in 2021 included cash and voucher assistance (CVA). This is 18 per cent of 113 projects that received SHF funding, which amounts to $5.2 million. It is worth highlighting that 35 per cent of CVA modality was to enhance food security, followed by 34 per cent for Non-Food Items, 19 per cent for multi-purpose cash, and the rest to support protection, nutrition and education services.

In July 2021, because of the devaluation of local currency and increase of prices of basic commodities, the Cash Working Group (CWG), as well as Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) Taskforce, increased their recommendations for CVA assistance to be 60 per cent of the MEB need for multi-purpose cash, with a rounded-up national average value of SYP 243,000 ($97) per household per month. This is double the amount compared with August 2020. SHF partners aligned CVA with the CWG recommendations, which required revising projects with CVA activities to reflect the recommended amounts.

Improving humanitarian access

In 2021, 39 per cent of SHF funding was allocated in areas of medium to high access severity levels - totalling $25.65 million across all sectors. This is in 66 sub-districts in various geographic areas, including:

- One per cent of SHF funding ($0.9 million) implemented by seven partners in areas of high access severity through Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Health, Nutrition and Shelter/NFI. This is in 14 sub-districts in northern Ar-Raqqa, southern Deir-ez-Zor, eastern Aleppo, southern Idlib, and southern-western Syria.

- 37 per cent of SHF funding ($24.7 million) implemented by 39 partners in areas of medium access severity level in various sectors. This is in 52 sub-districts in various geographic areas including Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Dar’a, Deir-ez-Zor, Idlib, Hama, Homs and Rural Damascus. This included activities sustainable beyond six months, for example: provision of primary and secondary health care, rehabilitation of partially damaged schools, support to farmers, and essential repair to water and sewage networks.

- Similarly, in Dar’a, SHF supported access to 12 sub-disticts with moderate to high access constraints by local, international, and UN organizations. This included activities sustainable beyond six months, for example: provision of primary and secondary health, rehabilitation of partially damaged housing units, support to farmers, the establishment of community service centres, rehabilitation of community services (bakeries) as well as cash-based interventions.

Enhancing complementarity with CERF and other funding streams

In 2021, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated $22 million to critical life-saving activities through its Underfunded Emergencies window. The CERF-funded activities complemented SHF allocations according to the strategic advantages of the two Funds. While all CERF funding was allocated to UN agencies, the majority of SHF funding was allocated to NGOs with a particular focus on national and local NGOs and front-line responders. As such, CERF and SHF were used strategically to provide essential aid and widen the coverage of response based on the needs on the ground and in coordination between humanitarian partners. Allocations from CERF and SHF made up nearly five per cent of HRP funding received in 2021.
**SECTOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

- **12,700** children are provided with school and learning supplies.
- **460,000** people in need received food assistance through direct distribution.
- **164,000** people received livelihood assistance.
- **490,000** people benefited from improved access to water in the most underserved areas.
- SHF allocated **$13.1M** to enable **21** partners implementing health-related activities.
- **$1M** allocated to facilitate the delivery of essential humanitarian services through supporting UNHAS.
- **416,000** households received shelter assistance.
- Food Security and Agriculture sector received the highest proportion of SHF funding, amounting to **$16M**.
- **36,000** households received shelter assistance.
- Stronger partnerships with local and national NGOs.
- Over **25%** of 2021 SHF funding reached local and national organizations.
- **$10M** allocated to support COVID 19 response including medical supplies and improving water, sanitation and hygiene.
Lessons learned and best practices

Better compliance and risk management
In 2022, the SHF strengthened risk management meeting all targets on monitoring missions, financial spot checks, and narrative reports; and 99 per cent of targets on final financial reports and audits. The Fund conducted many additional monitoring missions and financial spot checks beyond the required number. The improvements were achieved by strengthening grant management mechanisms and improving internal controls.

Direct outreach to affected communities
The Fund expanded direct outreach to people in need in 2021. The SHF conducted 383 remote-call interviews with community members on the quality and timeliness of service delivery under SHF-funded projects. The Fund made the calls through a random sampling approach based on lists of assisted people. Results showed that 96 per cent of interviewed people (370 people) were satisfied with services they received. The Fund conducted ten Focus Group Discussions with 105 people who were part of SHF-funded projects, all of which reported satisfaction. The outreach allowed the Fund to get first-hand feedback and communicate it to partners for follow-up actions.

Capitalizing on these improvements, the SHF started developing an online monitoring platform. The platform aims to enhance data collection and analysis for regular performance evaluation. The Fund expects the platform to be operational in 2022.

After-action review with partners shows ways to improve
Following each allocation, the SHF organized after-action reviews to take stock of lessons learned and refine the processes in the next allocations accordingly. The feedback showed that partners needed more time to develop proposals and that the SHF should provide the funding for winterization assistance earlier. Concluding the allocation in September would allow sufficient time for procurement activities. The SHF will follow-up on these lessons learned in 2022.
SUPPORTING FOOD AND LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE FOR VULNERABLE SYRIAN FAMILIES

“Our difficult situation makes me sad and frustrated, but I try to stay strong for my grandchildren,” says Inas1, a 56-year-old widow from Syria, and breadwinner for her family. Inas’s family includes her two daughters and three grandchildren, the children of Inas’s son, who has been missing for nine years.

“Despite my old age, I do any work I can find to secure the necessities of life,” Inas continues. “I cut vegetables and sell them to the neighbors. My daughters and I work for daily wages picking olives and tomatoes. Sometimes, my daughters and I sleep with no food, so that the kids can eat.”

When I received the voucher, I was so happy that I cried.

1 Names used in this story are not real.
The conflict and prolonged crisis in Syria and the COVID-19 pandemic have heavily affected thousands of vulnerable families. In 2022, nearly 14 million people, or

In this difficult environment, humanitarian partners provide life-saving and sustainable assistance to strengthen the resilience of communities further.

The Food and Livelihood Assistance for Syrian Households, or FLASH, project, supported by the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) in cooperation with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), an international NGO, provides monthly food vouchers, equivalent to US$64, for six months.

This support is vital for Inas's family, and others like her. The project targets 658 families, or 3,290 people, including 15 per cent persons with disabilities and 85 per cent women and children. An additional 75 families receive agriculture and livestock-based livelihood assistance.

"When I received the voucher, I was so happy that I cried because now I can get a break from spending all our money on food, can be relieved from some of our accumulated debt, and maybe even save some money. The voucher provides healthy food for my grandchildren. We can even get things we haven't eaten [in a long time] like legumes, halawa, and cheese."

The project focuses on families in Telbisa area of Homs Governorate, which was heavily damaged by the conflict, including damage to basic infrastructure, housing and farming land.

People have been slowly returning to the area since it became accessible to humanitarian actors in 2018. Though it is an agricultural area, the levels of food insecurity remain high, mostly because of limited livelihood opportunities and widespread poverty, with high levels of disability. Approximately 72 per cent of people surveyed in September 2020 (ADRA Syria, baseline assessment), reported that there were months they did not have enough food to meet their family needs, with 59 per cent having an unacceptable food consumption score.

"Now, I no longer need to borrow money, and my grandchildren are happy that they can have delicious and healthy food," said Inas.
Fund performance

The SHF measures its performance against a management tool that provides a set of indicators to assess how well the Fund performs in relation to the policy objectives and operational standards set out in the Country-based Pooled Fund (CBPF) Global Guidelines. This common methodology enables management and stakeholders involved in the governance of the Funds to identify, analyze and address challenges in reaching and maintaining a well-performing CBPF.

CBPFs embody the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, and function according to a set of specific principles: Inclusiveness, Flexibility, Timeliness, Efficiency, Accountability and Risk Management.

**Principle 1**

**INCLUSIVENESS**

A broad range of humanitarian partner organizations (UN agencies and NGOs) participates in CBPF processes and receive funding to implement projects addressing identified priority needs.

**Principle 2**

**FLEXIBILITY**

The programmatic focus and funding priorities of CBPFs are set at the country level and may shift rapidly, especially in volatile humanitarian contexts. CBPFs are able to adapt rapidly to changing priorities and allow humanitarian partners to identify appropriate solutions to address humanitarian needs in the most effective way.

**Principle 3**

**TIMELINESS**

CBPFs allocate funds and save lives as humanitarian needs emerge or escalate.

**Principle 4**

**EFFICIENCY**

Management of all processes related to CBPFs enables timely and strategic responses to identified humanitarian needs. CBPFs seek to employ effective disbursement mechanisms, minimizing transaction costs while operating in a transparent and accountable manner.

**Principle 5**

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

CBPFs manage risk and effectively monitor partner capacity and performance. CBPFs utilize a full range of accountability tools and measures.
PRINCIPLE 1
INCLUSIVENESS

A broad range of humanitarian partner organizations (UN agencies and NGOs) participates in CBPF processes and receive funding to implement projects addressing identified priority needs.

1 INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE
The Advisory Board includes the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society (SARC), three UN agencies, three INGOs, and five donor representatives.

Results
Very high score: SHF Advisory Board comprised 12 members representing UN agencies (3), international NGOs (3), Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society (1) and contributing donors (5).

Analysis and follow-up
The SHF Advisory Board in 2021 comprised 12 members, excluding the HC (Chair), OCHA and observer members. The 12 members included donor representatives with alternates (Belgium/Netherlands, Canada/Denmark, FCDO UK/Spain, Germany/Switzerland, Norway/Sweden); three UN representatives (UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF with WFP as an alternate); three international NGO representatives (DORCAS, ONG Rescate, and AVSI); and a SARC representative.

The Fund arranged three meetings in 2021. Overall, the SHF enjoyed the support of diverse and active Advisory Board. However, despite all the efforts, the representation of the national organizations on the Advisory Board remained low. The Fund will further encourage the national NGO representation.

2 INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING
The review committees of the Fund have the appropriate size and a balanced representation of different partner constituencies and sector representatives.

Results
Very high score: The review committees had balanced representation between UN and NGOs.

Analysis and follow-up
Project proposals for SHF funding were reviewed by Strategic/Technical Review Committees (S/TRCs). The committees were chaired by sector coordinators and were attended by representatives of UN agencies, INGOs, NNGOs, OCHA HFU and relevant thematic experts, such as Cash Advisor for cash-based projects. NNGO representation in S/TRCs was prioritized throughout the year and NNGOs were represented in all review committees. Multi-sector project proposals were reviewed by multi-sector review committees composed of respective sector coordinators. The well-balanced participation and representation in the review committees ensured the quality and complementarity of sector components within these projects. While gender and protection advisors were present in some review committees, OCHA HFU will promote their greater participation in 2022.
3 INCLUSIVE IMPLEMENTATION
CBPF funding is allocated to the best-positioned actors, leveraging the diversity and comparative advantage of eligible organizations.

Target
Leveraging the comparative advantage of the best placed actors by diversifying the allocations when possible and ensuring that clusters vet project proposals. 60 per cent of funding channeled through international and national NGOs.

Results
Very high score: 64 per cent of the total 2021 SHF funding was provided to national and international NGOs enabling the best positioned actors to deliver front-line response. NGOs received 58 per cent of 2021 SHF funding directly and 6 per cent as sub-grants.

Analysis and follow-up
The Fund continued to enable the best-placed organizations to deliver timely and adequate assistance in the complex operational environment of Syria. With a large percentage of funding allocated to NGOs, the SHF remained a key funding source for organizations at the front-line of the humanitarian crisis.

4 INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT
Resources are invested by OCHA’s Humanitarian Financing Unit (HFU) in supporting the capacity of local and national NGO partners within the scope of CBPF strategic objectives.

Target
60 per cent of SHF eligible partners received training on proposal and budget development, monitoring and reporting, revisions, financial management (including audits) and cross-cutting issues. 40 per cent of national NGOs took part in capacity enhancement activities within the scope of the SHF.

Results
High score: 64 organizations received trainings in 2021 representing over 70 per cent of SHF-eligible partners, including 34 NGOs representing over 56 per cent of SHF-eligible NGO partners.

Analysis and follow-up
The SHF continued investing in upgrading the capacity of its partners in 2021. The SHF prioritized the provision of trainings on effective proposal writing, budget development, and narrative reporting, providing four sessions on each of the three subjects. Following the sessions, an improvement of the quality of proposals was observed, however a continuous effort is necessary to ensure sufficient quality of submissions.

Other training sessions included protection and GBV mainstreaming, gender mainstreaming, financial management, and audit processes. In total, the SHF provided 19 trainings in 2021, as compared with 12 trainings in 2020. As a result, 467 partner staff including 216 staff from NGOs were trained in 2021. According to the SHF training survey, 99 per cent of respondents were satisfied with the trainings they received.

5 INCLUSIVE RESPONSE
CBPF funded projects have a clear strategy to promote the participation of affected people.

Target
All SHF-funded projects ensure Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) as part of the implementation. All monitoring instances include consultations with assisted people to assess community engagement in project implementation.

Results
Very high score: All SHF-funded projects were required to integrate AAP in their design. Of the 113 projects funded by the SHF in 2021, 102 projects (90 per cent) included the provision of accessible and functional feedback and complaints mechanisms for assisted people. The rest of the projects included partial inclusion of accessible and functional feedback and complaints mechanisms because of the limited capacity of partners.

Analysis and follow-up
The SHF continued to promote effective mainstreaming of AAP throughout the project cycle of all projects it funded in 2021. The scorecards used to review all project proposals for SHF funding in 2021 included a specific question about the AAP mechanisms. This made projects with AAP
effectively mainstreamed in the project design more likely to receive SHF funding.

The HFU and sectors will strengthen efforts to ensure that partners effectively integrate AAP in all

**ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED PEOPLE**

$6.6M
11 Projects
Partially - 1

$66.2M
102 Projects
Yes - 2

**PRINCIPLE 2**

**FLEXIBILITY**

The programmatic focus and funding priorities of CBPFs are set at the country level and may shift rapidly, especially in volatile humanitarian contexts. CBPFs are able to adapt rapidly to changing priorities and allow humanitarian partners to identify appropriate solutions to address humanitarian needs in the most effective way.

**Target**

10 per cent of the SHF funding released through the cash modality.

**Results**

Medium score: Eight per cent of SHF allocations ($5.2 million) were provided in-cash assistance, of which $1.6 million was for unrestricted cash assistance.

**Analysis and follow-up**

Review committees prioritized cash-based programming where and when appropriate. The SHF provided funding for cash-based assistance through Standard and Reserve Allocations under five sectors. 44 per cent of SHF funding for cash-based assistance was provided to projects in the food and agricultural sector, 36 per cent for projects in shelter and non-food items sector, 15 per cent for projects in the protection sector, 3 per cent for projects in the nutrition sector, and 2 per cent for projects in the education sector.

The SHF funding for cash-based programming decreased from 10 per cent in 2020 to eight per cent in 2021. While in 2020 the SHF had a separate envelope for multi-purpose cash programming, the prioritization of cash assistance was encouraged through regular programming across the relevant sectors in 2021. Using cash in SHF-funded projects was still much higher in 2021 than in 2019 when only one per cent of the funding was allocated towards cash-based interventions. The SHF will continue exploring opportunities to support cash-based interventions in coordination with the CWG and the Cash Advisor.
Target  
Up to 5 per cent of the SHF funding supported an enabling operational environment through common services/enabling programmes.

Results  
Medium score: 2.3 per cent of the 2021 SHF funding was allocated towards common services/enabling programmes.

Analysis and follow-up  
In 2021, 2.3 per cent of the allocated funding was made available for common services and enabling programmes, which is less than the benchmark of 5 per cent. In December 2021, the Fund launched a Reserve Allocation of $1 million that was fully dedicated to fund UNHAS. The allocation was important because a disruption of UNHAS services, even if only temporarily, would put millions of people at risk of not receiving essential humanitarian assistance.

The Fund also allocated $0.5 million through the Standard Allocation to support Explosive Ordnance Assessment in high-priority locations. The survey will expand access for humanitarian partners to deliver aid in areas severely impacted by explosive ordnance.

Target  
At least 80 per cent of the total funds are allocated through Standard Allocation(s) and 20 per cent of the available funds are kept for Reserve Allocation(s) to respond to changes in the humanitarian context.

Results  
High score: In 2021, SHF allocated 56 per cent of funding under the Standard Allocation in June and 44 per cent under four Reserve Allocations throughout the year.

Analysis and follow-up  
In 2021, the SHF supported response to top-priority needs identified in the HRP and sudden onset emergencies through use of Standard and Reserve Allocations. The Standard Allocation of $37 million launched in June focused on enabling delivery of priority under-funded interventions outlined in the HRP. Four Reserve Allocations totaling $29 million launched in January, November and December were pivotal in financing time-critical inter-sectoral responses to newly emerging humanitarian needs. The Fund will continue working flexibly with these two allocation modalities as required by the context in 2022 and will keep $5 million in reserve to respond to sudden emergencies.

Target  
Project revision requests are processed to respond to shifting/ emerging operational needs.

Results  
Very high score: In 2021, the SHF responded to all revision requests submitted by partners. The Fund processed 128 revisions of 91 SHF-funded projects (multiple requests were submitted for some projects). These included 262 instances of revisions (multiple types of revisions were included in some revision requests).

Analysis and follow-up  
The requests for revisions in 2021 primarily included No-Cost Extensions, budget revisions and changes in people targeted. These changes were mostly attributed to the volatility of the exchange rate that has affected operational capacity of the partners and made procurement processes difficult. Other...
key reasons for revisions included administrative delays, shortage of fuel that impacted partners’ ability to access project sites, and the change of the official exchange rate announced in March 2021 that prompted many partners to revise salary scales. In 2021, the SHF also granted cost extensions for eight projects, totaling $1 million, in response to changing circumstances that critically affected partners’ ability to achieve project objectives.

Rahma received business startup support in rural Aleppo. Credit: © OCHA
PRINCIPLE 3
TIMELINESS

CBPFs allocate funds and save lives as humanitarian needs emerge or escalate.

Target
The average duration time of Standard Allocations is 42 days.

The average duration time of Reserve Allocations is 20 days.

Results
Very high score: Projects from the 2021 SHF Standard Allocation were processed on average in 40 days, two days faster than the target.

High score: Projects from the 2021 SHF Reserve Allocations were processed on average in 23 days, which was three days slower than the target.

Analysis and follow-up
In 2021, the average duration of processing projects from the Standard Allocation increased by one day compared with 2020 and was still two days faster than the target. However, the average duration of processing projects from Reserve Allocations was slower than the target by three days. Conversely, this duration decreased by one day as compared with 2021.

The main reason for average processing time exceeding the target was that many project proposals required several rounds of revisions to ensure that their quality met the required standards. It must be noted though that several capacity development sessions on proposal and budget preparation were conducted in 2021, which significantly improved the proposals’ quality. Other main reasons for delays were COVID-19 remote working arrangements and increased workload that the Standard Allocation—one of the biggest in the Fund’s history—put on partners, Sector coordinators and the SHF staff.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From allocation closing date to HC signature of the grant agreement</td>
<td>Standard Allocations</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reserve Allocations</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: this excludes the number of days taken by NGOs to receive administrative approvals, which are required in Syria before signing grant agreements.

Target
10 days from Executive Officer signature of a proposal to first payment.

Results
Very high score: The average number of days for Standard Allocations was 9.4 days and for Reserve Allocations 9.6 days.

Analysis and follow-up
On average, all payments were completed within the 10 days stipulated in the guidelines. Disbursements made under Standard and Reserve Allocation modality were timelier for the third year, reflecting efforts to streamline processes.

OCHA CBPF Section and HFU will continue to maintain timely disbursements and address any bottlenecks.
Target
Distribution of total annual contributions per quarter: 15 per cent in the first quarter, 70 per cent in the second quarter, 10 per cent in the third quarter, and 5 per cent in the fourth quarter.

Results
High score: The SHF received 4 per cent of contributions in the first quarter, 80 per cent in the second quarter, 5 per cent in the third quarter, and 11 per cent in the fourth quarter.

Analysis and follow-up
By the end of the first quarter of 2021, 4 per cent ($2 million) of contributions were deposited, which besides the remaining available balance, allowed the SHF to launch the first Reserve Allocation in January. The allocation provided critical humanitarian assistance to populations living in vulnerable circumstances in Deir-ez-Zor and Rural Damascus. Eighty per cent ($42.5 million) reached the Fund by the end of the second quarter, which enabled the SHF to launch the first Standard Allocation supporting the 2021 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) by mid-year. In particular, the allocation allowed for life-saving and sustainable assistance in underserved areas, including the newly assessed ones, for the most vulnerable people. The rest of the contributions enabled to launch three more Reserve Allocations in response to time-critical needs in the second half of 2021. The prompt release of contributions was much needed and had an important strategic added value for the overall humanitarian response in Syria.

Under the stewardship of the HC, OCHA will continue advocating for early and predictable contributions to further strengthen the strategic allocation of funds.
**PRINCIPLE 3**

**EFFICIENCY**

Management of all processes related to CBPFs enables timely and strategic responses to identified humanitarian needs. CBPFs seek to employ effective disbursement mechanisms, minimizing transaction costs while operating in a transparent and accountable manner.

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**Target**
7.5 per cent of HRP funding received.

**Results**
Medium score: Donor contributions to SHF for 2021 reached three per cent of the total contributions towards the 2021 Syria HRP.

**Analysis and follow-up**
The donor funding trend to the SHF mirrored the overall funding trend to the Syria HRP. The funding to the SHF decreased by four per cent from $55.3 million in 2020 to $53 million in 2021. The overall funding to Syria HRP decreased by 12 per cent in the same period, from $2.2 billion in 2020 to below $2 billion in 2021.

The decrease of funding to the SHF was proportionately smaller than the funding decrease to the Syria HRP. Therefore, in 2021, the SHF accounted for a higher proportion of funding to the HRP than in 2020. The donor funding to the SHF remained below its funding target in 2021. Under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator, OCHA will continue its advocacy and proactive engagement with traditional and emerging donors at country, regional, and HQ level to increase the funding to the SHF in 2022.

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**Target**
All funded projects address HRP strategic priorities.

**Results**
Very High score: All projects contributed to the HRP strategic objectives in 2021.

**Analysis and follow-up**
The Fund played a key role in providing life-saving and sustainable assistance to the most vulnerable people in underserved areas, in line with the Syria HRP. In particular, it reinforced the water crisis response and addressed food insecurity and critical lack of basic services in areas of highest needs. In 2021, 52 per cent of SHF funding was allocated to support HRP SO1: Provide life-saving humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people with an emphasis on those in areas with high severity of needs; 36 per cent to support HRP SO3: Increase the resilience of affected communities by improving access to livelihood opportunities and basic services, especially among the most vulnerable households and communities; and 12 per cent to support HRP SO2: Enhance the prevention and mitigation of protection risks and respond to protection needs through supporting the protective environment in Syria. The Fund will continue closely aligning its allocations with HRP priorities in 2022.

**Allocation by HRP Strategic Objectives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SO1</td>
<td>34.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO2</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO3</td>
<td>21.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **SO1**: Provide life-saving humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people with an emphasis on those in areas with high severity of needs.
- **SO2**: Enhance the prevention and mitigation of protection risks and respond to protection needs through supporting the protective environment in Syria.
- **SO3**: Increase the resilience of affected communities by improving access to livelihood opportunities and basic services, especially among the most vulnerable households and communities.
Target
SHF collectively prioritized life-saving humanitarian needs and assisted people identified as most vulnerable and at risk.

Results
Very high score: The SHF collectively prioritized life-saving humanitarian needs and targeted four million vulnerable and at-risk people in 2021.

Analysis and follow-up
The SHF collectively prioritized life-saving humanitarian needs and targeted four million vulnerable and at-risk people in 2021. The Fund collected data on people targeted disaggregated by gender and age in all projects funded in 2021. The overall figures reflect the maximum number of people assisted per community in efforts to, as much as possible, avoid counting the same people more than once.

Target
HFU operational costs (execution of the cost-plan) account for less than five per cent of the overall utilization of funds (allocations + operational costs).

Results
Very high score: The HFU operational costs (execution of the cost-plan) accounted for 1.7 per cent of the overall utilization of funds (allocations + operational costs).

Analysis and follow-up
In 2021, the SHF allocated $66.2 million and had $1.13 million operational costs (execution of the cost-plan) incurred by its Humanitarian Financing Unit (HFU). The Fund utilized $67.3 million (allocations + operational costs). Out of this amount, the operational costs were 1.7 per cent.

The 2021 HFU’s cost plan was $2 million out of which $1.13 million (56 per cent) was used. Key reasons for such low utilization rate of the cost plan were delays in the recruitment of international staff and the fact that contracting a third-party monitoring company planned for 2021 has not been completed.

The HFU will continue ensuring efficiency and quality assurance in the Fund’s management.
Target
Operational Manual is updated based on the latest version of CBPF Global Guidelines and based on relevancy and changes in the context. Annual report and allocation papers are fully compliant with global guidance documents.

Results
High score: The annual report and allocation papers fully complied with the global guidance documents. However, for valid reasons elaborated in the analysis below, the Operational Manual was not updated in 2021.

Analysis and follow-up
The annual report and allocation papers fully complied with the Operational Manual and global guidance documents. The Operational Manual was updated in 2020 having gone through an iterative and consultative process. The manual was not updated in 2021 because the operating context did not warrant it and because the revised CBPF Global Guidelines were not completed yet. The manual will be updated in 2022 based on the revised Global Guidelines.

PRINCIPLE 5
RISK MANAGEMENT

CBPFs manage risk and effectively monitor partner capacity and performance. CBPFs use a full range of accountability tools and measures.

Target
100 per cent compliance with operational modalities on five categories of risk management pillars.

Results
Very high score: The compliance with operational modalities was 100 per cent for monitoring, financial spot checks, and final narrative reports; and 99 per cent for final financial reports and audits.

Analysis and follow-up
In 2021, the SHF improved significantly compared with 2020 on compliance with operational modalities on all five risk management pillars. The Fund conducted many additional risk management activities in 2021, beyond the requirements stipulated by the operational modalities.

In 2021, the SHF conducted all 100 monitoring missions required by the operational modalities achieving 100 per cent monitoring compliance rate. Compared with 2020, the Fund had 90 per cent monitoring compliance rate. In 2021, the Fund also conducted 27 additional missions beyond the required number to further strengthen project monitoring. As a result, monitoring missions increased from 74 in 2020 to 127 in 2021. It needs to be noted though that some 2021 monitoring missions were conducted through remote call monitoring because of the COVID-19 travel restrictions.

The Fund conducted all 36 financial spot checks required by the operational modalities in 2021, achieving 100 per cent compliance rate, compared with 70 per cent compliance rate in 2020. The SHF conducted five additional financial spot checks of partners with high and medium risk levels to strengthen financial risk management and control. Overall, 41 financial spot checks were conducted in 2021, compared with 25 in 2020. Some of the financial spot checks were conducted remotely because of restrictions as well.

The SHF also achieved 100 per cent compliance rate on final narrative reports as compared with 93 per cent in 2020. All 91 final narrative reports required by the operational modalities were received and cleared. In addition, two more narrative reports beyond the required number were requested and received as part of further project follow-up.

The Fund completed 86 final financial reports compared with 87 reports required by the operational modalities. This led to 99 per cent compliance rate in 2021, which was like 2020. The one underachieved report in 2021 was completed after the reporting period.

Out of the 54 required audits in 2021, 53 were completed or ongoing at the time of writing, leading to 99 per cent audit compliance rate. Out of the 53
audits, 30 have been completed by the time of writing and 23 were ongoing.

In addition to the compliance with all risk management pillars, the Fund also organized three donor field visits to seven SHF-funded projects in Hama, Homs, and Rural Damascus in 2021. The missions included representatives from Norway, Spain and Sweden, further strengthening the accountability over SHF funding.

SHF will continue to fully comply with the risk management framework as per the operational manual and implement additional measures to ensure adequate risk and project management.
**Target**
Performance data is updated annually for partners receiving funding.

**Results**
Very high score: Performance data was updated for partners receiving funding. 12 partners became eligible, and 11 partners had their risk level changed.

**Analysis and follow-up**
The SHF continued diligently using the Partner Performance Index (PPI) to score partners’ performance on key aspects of project implementation and management in 2021. The Fund used the PPI data to review the risk levels of partners receiving funding, ensuring that partner risk levels matched the realities on the ground and the quality of delivery.

As a result, 11 partners had their risk level changed in 2021. The risk level of 10 partners was changed from low to medium, and the risk level of one partner from medium to high. The risk management by the SHF in 2021 became tighter.

In 2021, the Fund conducted capacity assessment of 10 new organizations, of which seven met the minimum standards and gained eligibility for SHF funding. In addition, the SHF reassessed five organizations that had lost their eligibility in the past. All five of them met the standards and regained their eligibility. As a result, 12 partners became eligible for SHF funding in 2021.

The Fund continued using the information on partner risk levels to inform the prioritization of the best placed implementers for SHF funding. Accordingly, 88 per cent of the funding allocated in 2021 was provided to low- and medium-risk partners. The SHF will continue using the PPI to score the performance of partners and will review the partner risk levels in 2022 to ensure that the partner risk levels remain relevant and up to date.
RISK MANAGEMENT OF FUNDING
Appropriate oversight and assurances of funding is administered through CBPFs.

Target
Full compliance with global CBPFs and SHF standard operating procedure (SOP) on fraud management.

Results
Very high score: All potential aid diversions or fraud cases are addressed according to CBPF SOPs on fraud management.

Analysis and follow-up
In 2021, following the careful review of two cases of non-compliance in coordination with the CBPF Compliance Unit, two organizations have been suspended from receiving SHF funding because of weak oversight and control. One out of two organizations was referred to Office of Internal Oversight Services for inquiry. The second organization was temporarily suspended in 2021 (concerning a global compliance case), however it was reinstated later in the year.

In 2021, SHF made strides in rigorously implementing its risk management framework including significant increase in number of monitoring, audit, and financial spot checks conducted compared with 2020. While the SHF diligently applied the CBPF SOPs on Response to Concerns of Fraud or Misuse of Funds by Partners, no new cases were identified in 2021.

The Fund will continue to ensure that all potential diversion or fraud instances are treated in compliance with the SOPs. The management will further scale up fraud-awareness activities and prevention trainings for funded partners, sub-partners and the SHF team. The SHF team will continue to have dedicated monitoring staff to verify timelines and adequacy of delivered projects. It will complete the contracting of the Third-Party Monitoring experts to further strengthen the monitoring in 2022.
EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES IN RURAL HAMA

"I experienced indescribable feelings of fear and hopelessness," said Ghada. Ghada, now 15, was forced to flee her town Halfaya to Idlib—Jericho in 2016. Ghada was in the fifth grade at the time of displacement.

In Idlib, Ghada went back to school and enrolled in curriculum B, but she could not catch up with her peers.

Her experience is not uncommon. Limited access to education magnifies life’s challenges during displacement. It also limits the potential of displaced children to rebuild their lives, protect themselves against abuse and take a lead in shaping the lives of their communities.

In 2020, Ghada and her family returned to Halfaya, Hama (shifted control area). Multiple displacements in Syria's fragile context affected Ghada’s life physically and psychologically.

"I lost another academic year in the eighth grade because of many challenges after returning to Halfaya. The family could hardly secure basic needs with loss of livelihood and increased financial constraints. I lost hope of continuing my education and I was certain that I would not pass the national exam of the 9th grade," said Ghada.

Ghada joined the non-formal education cycles, implemented by Finn Church Aid (FCA) through SHF-funded education in emergencies project, where 2,406 children have benefited from the non-formal education activities, and 5,309 children have attended the protection events. FCA worked hard to complete the school rehabilitation and equipped it with furniture to respond to the Education needs of children and youth in Halfaya. FCA with the help of trained qualified teachers, rolled out remedial classes in small groups to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The purpose of the remedial classes is to help students who dropped out of school to pass the national exam and enjoy some recreational activities for their mental health.

"I did not think that I would finish the curriculum, especially because I had a late start, but with great encouragement from the teachers, the hope has returned to me," said Ghada.

FCA field staff followed up on the results of exams. The success rate among the students enrolled in the remedial classes was close to 80 per cent including Ghada: "I could never have imagined that I would be able to catch up with my peers and pass the exam. The feeling of success is incredible. I hope I will never face the challenge of education loss. I am planning to study Arabic literature when I finish high school."

"We needed this support because we could not afford the cost of private courses or hiring a tutor. The free remedial classes were a wonderful gesture and great opportunity to bridge the gaps in loss of education, affecting all aspects of a student's education and their self-confidence, motivation, and interest in learning," said Ghada’s father.

FCA activities focus on targeting out-of-school children, dropouts, and children at risk of leaving school, to restore educational loss and encourage children to return to school and continue their education.

1Names used in this story are not real.
Explosive Ordinance Assessment conducted in Rural Damascus, supported by SHF and implemented by UNMAS.

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Annexes

Annex A  Acronyms & abbreviations
Annex B  Reference Map
Annex C  SHF Advisory Board
Annex D  Allocations by recipient organizations
## ANNEX A

### ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<td>ACF</td>
<td>Action Contre la Faim</td>
</tr>
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<td>ACA</td>
<td>Al Amany Charity Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADRA</td>
<td>Adventist Development and Relief Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVSI</td>
<td>Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKF</td>
<td>Agha Khan Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASS</td>
<td>Al Bir Association for Social Services in Al-Hasakah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCSQ</td>
<td>Al Birr Association Charitable and Sociable Services Organization in Al Qamishli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BICS</td>
<td>Al-Ber and Al-Ihsan Charity Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCA</td>
<td>Child Care Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCS</td>
<td>Syria Society to Cure Cancer of Children and Care for Them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBPF</td>
<td>Country-Based Pooled Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>CERF</td>
<td>Central Emergency Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COOPI</td>
<td>Cooperazione Internazionale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVA</td>
<td>Cash and Voucher Assistance</td>
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<td>Cash Working Group</td>
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<td>Danish Refugee Council</td>
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<td>Food and Agriculture Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>FCA</td>
<td>Finn Church Aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOUADI</td>
<td>The Foundation for Advancing Development Integration</td>
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<tr>
<td>FSA</td>
<td>Food Security and Agriculture Sector</td>
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<tr>
<td>EO</td>
<td>OCHA Executive Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOPA</td>
<td>Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GBV</td>
<td>Gender-based violence</td>
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<td>GMS</td>
<td>Grant Management System</td>
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<tr>
<td>HC</td>
<td>Humanitarian Coordinator</td>
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<td>Humanitarian Country Team</td>
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<td>OCHA Syria Humanitarian Financing Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>HRP</td>
<td>Humanitarian Response Plan</td>
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<td>IDPS</td>
<td>Internally displaced persons</td>
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<td>International Medical Corps UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISCG</td>
<td>Inter-Sector Coordination Group</td>
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<td>NFI</td>
<td>Non-food items</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>NNGO</td>
<td>National Non-Governmental Organization</td>
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<td>NRC</td>
<td>Norwegian Refugee Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCHA</td>
<td>Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUI</td>
<td>Première Urgence Internationale</td>
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<td>RESCATE</td>
<td>ONG Rescate Syria</td>
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<tr>
<td>RSRP</td>
<td>Rebuild Syria Reconstruction Program</td>
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<td>SACHF</td>
<td>Syria Al Amal Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>SARC</td>
<td>Syrian Arab Red Crescent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCB</td>
<td>Society Charity of Bab Al Sibaa in Homs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCS</td>
<td>Social Care Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHF</td>
<td>Syria Humanitarian Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIF</td>
<td>Secours Islamique France</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSSD</td>
<td>Syrian Society for Social Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>SYCA</td>
<td>Syria Al Yamama Charity Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TdH It</td>
<td>Fondazione Terres des Hommes Italia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TGH</td>
<td>Triangle Generation Humanitaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLW</td>
<td>Pregnant and Lactating Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
</tr>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
</tr>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<td>UN-Habitat</td>
<td>United Nations Human Settlements Programme</td>
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<td>UNHAS</td>
<td>United Nations Humanitarian Air Services</td>
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<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
</tr>
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<td>UNOPS</td>
<td>United Nations Operation Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNRWA</td>
<td>United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in Near East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>United States Dollar</td>
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<td>WASH</td>
<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</td>
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<tr>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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<td>WW-GVC</td>
<td>Fondazione We World - GVC Onlus</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZOA</td>
<td>Stichting ZOA</td>
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ANNEX B

REFERENCE MAP

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Map Sources: ESRI, UNCS.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created in Sep 2013.
## ANNEX C

### SHF ADVISORY BOARD

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<tr>
<th>STAKEHOLDER</th>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>Humanitarian Coordinator</td>
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<td>United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)/World Food Programme (WFP)</td>
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### ANNEX D

**ALLOCATIONS BY RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION**  
In US$ million

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<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount (US$ million)</th>
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<td>SARC (Syrian Arab Red Crescent)</td>
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**SARC 0.5M**  
1%
#InvestInHumanity