I. Allocation Overview

The Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) Reserve Allocation (RA) strategy paper is issued by the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), in consultation with the SHF Advisory Board (AB).

Project Proposal Deadline: (28 December 2021, Damascus time: 18:00)

A) Overview

The Reserve Allocation aims to ensure continuation of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) in Syria. The amount of up to US $1 million has been made available to ensure the continuity of humanitarian air services, including for medical evacuations, enabling timely, coordinated and efficient delivery of aid to most affected communities.

BACKGROUND

- UNHAS started operating in 2020 in Syria to ensure safe, reliable and sustainable air access to beneficiaries for the humanitarian community mainly in those parts of Syria that are not easily accessible by road. UNHAS Syria monthly operational expenditure is US $450,000. In 2021, donor contributions to its operations in Syria amounted to US $5.5 million from eight donors. UNHAS facilitated efficient and timely delivery of assistance to North-East Syria and Aleppo. Additionally, UNHAS is exploring ways to operate to Deir-ez-Zor. A monthly average of 350 humanitarian workers uses UNHAS services - from primarily Red Cross, international and national NGOs and UN agencies. UNHAS ships humanitarian cargo as well with monthly average of 3.16 million tons (MT). Moreover, UNHAS provides the required capacity for medical and emergency evacuation.

- UNHAS is a critical enabler for the Sustainable Development Goals as it facilitates humanitarian access and provides an effective humanitarian response during times of emergency. Since January 2021, UNHAS has carried some 2,609 passengers supporting the response and access for the humanitarian community operating inside Syria. UNHAS is currently available to 36 organizations whose work spans across the Food Security, Nutrition, Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sectors with passenger and light cargo transport. UNHAS also provided critical medical and security evacuation services for humanitarian staff.

- The humanitarian cost of the disruption of UNHAS services, even if only temporary, is 3.5 million people in need in Al-Hasakeh and Aleppo being put at risk of not receiving essential humanitarian assistance. Moreover, the opportunity for air operations in Deir-ez-Zor may be lost. UNHAS conducted the technical assessment for Deir-ez-Zor in October 2021 and the request to obtain approval to operate to Deir-ez-Zor was submitted to authorities on 16 November 2021. Finally, the logistical impediments if UNHAS stops its air transportation services are significant. If the service exits the country due to a lack of funding, it will take World Food Programme (WFP) about seven months to continue operations if allowed by local authorities to do so. WFP anticipates bilateral funding to be received by mid-March 2022 and has identified a critical gap period between mid-January to mid-March 2022.
• To manage the above-mentioned risks, the SHF allocates US $1 million to ensure the continuity of humanitarian air services, including for medical evacuations, enabling timely, coordinated and efficient delivery of aid to most affected communities and essential access for the humanitarian community to affected areas across the country.

II. Allocation Strategy

A) Purpose of the Allocation Strategy and linkages to the HRP / Appeal

The Reserve Allocation aims to ensure the continuity of humanitarian air services, including for medical evacuations, enabling timely, coordinated and efficient delivery of aid to most affected communities. This allocation is aligned with Strategic Objectives one (SO1), two (SO2) and three (SO3) of the Syria HRP 2021.

This project will fall under the Logistics cluster which will facilitate movement of humanitarian aid and workers to ensure timely response across all the HRP strategic objectives mainly in areas that are difficult to access by land transportation.

B) Allocation Breakdown

The implementing partner of this project will be WFP, who was mandated in 2003 by the High Commission in New York to manage aviation services for the humanitarian community globally. Decisions in respect of aircraft operational and safety issues shall be made solely by WFP/UNHAS based on its operations and safety guidelines.

Overall project Budget

UNHAS Syria 2022 budget is estimated at US $ 7,994,065 million. WFP currently is in the process of securing funding from donors supporting the continuation of UNHAS service in Syria, to ensure full amount would be secured for 2022.

Main activities

The proposed allocation of $1 million will support the operational activities of UNHAS for two months by:

• Maintaining two flights a week between Damascus and Qamishli.
• Maintaining two flights a week between Damascus and Aleppo.
• Covering relevant expenditure: aircraft charter cost, fuel, handling, crew accommodation, meals and transport, and cost of staff to manage the operation.

III. Timeline and Procedure

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<th>Phase</th>
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<th>What</th>
<th>Who</th>
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<td>Development of the concept note</td>
<td>HC and Cluster Priorities</td>
<td>OCHA</td>
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About Country-based Pooled Funds (CBPFs):
CBPFs allow donors to pool their contributions into single, unearmarked funds to support local humanitarian efforts. This enables humanitarian partners in crisis-affected countries to deliver timely, coordinated and principled assistance. http://www.unocha.org/our-work/humanitarian-financing/country-based-pooled-funds-cbpf
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cost is less; b) the cost per beneficiary ratio is reasonable; c) the level of support costs is reasonable and in line with accepted levels for a given type of activity; d) the proposed period of implementation is adequate and represents best use of resources at that time.

- **Risk management**: assumptions and risks are comprehensively and clearly spelled out, along with risk management strategies
- **Engagement with coordination**: applicant organization engages in coordination mechanisms, including exchanges with sectors during the preparation of the project proposal.
- **Eligible applicants should have no outstanding SHF reports**: (including interim, final and financial reports), SHF oversight and compliance issues and should be part of the sector coordination mechanisms in Syria.
- **Parameter**: applicants adhere to allocation parameters and CBPF guidance on project and budget development listed in the SHF Operational Manual. In addition, a minimum budget is $250,000 for each proposal submitted, while eligible grant size will be determined by partner’s capacity assessment status as outlined in the operational modality.

### IV. HFU Information and Complaints Mechanism

The following email address, SyriaHF-feedback@un.org is available to receive feedback from stakeholders who believe they have been treated incorrectly or unfairly during any of the SHF processes. OCHA will compile, review, address and (if necessary) raise the issues to the HC, who will then take a decision on necessary action. All received information will be treated confidential.