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 address acute emergency needs in health facilities through procurement of life-saving medicines and vital medical supplies including ventilators, equipping COVID-19 case management centers and strengthening diagnostic capacity of national laboratories. An amount of US $3 million has been made available for this allocation to ensure immediate needs are met in complementarity with other funding sources that WHO is exploring.

BACKGROUND

- Acute shortages of life-saving medicines across all public health facilities in Syria, especially related to hospitalized patients’ case management, are observed\(^1\). This is due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and its recent (highest and longest) 4th wave that continues devastating health sector capacity to respond. Currently, the national stock for medicines in public warehouses stands low at alarming level - only 20 per cent of the needs for 2022 are available\(^2\), including six per cent of certain types of anticoagulants (blood thinners) and anaesthetic medicines where other specific antibiotics and IV fluids are available.

- Due to the extreme limited vaccine coverage (as of 7 December 2021, only around five per cent of the population vaccinated in government-controlled areas and North-East Syria (NES) due to delays in vaccines supplies), some 95 per cent of the population are at risk of infection, of which at least 20 per cent are likely to be at risk of hospitalization in the upcoming COVID-19 surges\(^3\). This is one of the factors that are going to keep the needs for medicines high alongside with economic factors and overall market deficits for certain types of COVID-19 related medicines.

II. Allocation Strategy

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

The Reserve Allocation aims to address acute emergency needs in health facilities through procurement of vital medical supplies including ventilators, equipping COVID-19 case management centres, and strengthening diagnostic capacity of national laboratories. This allocation is aligned with Strategic Objectives one (SO1), two (SO2) and three (SO3) of the Syria HRP 2021.

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1 WHO Syria, December 2021
2 This is based on partner reports to WHO and the Health sector
3 Based on WHO Case Management guidelines, available here

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.
This project will fall under the Health sector including Sector Objective 1: increase access to life-saving and life-sustaining coordinated, equitable humanitarian health services for those most vulnerable and in need; and Sector Objective 2: strengthen health sector capacity to prepare for, detect and deliver timely response to disease outbreaks, including COVID-19.

B) Allocation Breakdown
WHO is a pre-identified partner for the project implementation due to its bulk procurement capacity and ability to implement this humanitarian intervention in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Overall project Budget
WHO estimates that $5.14 million is urgently requested to procure essential medical supplies in Syria. WHO is in the process of securing funding from other donors to ensure that the full amount is secured for 2022. SHF will cover 58 per cent of the requested amount to respond urgently to the acute health needs.

Main activities
The proposed allocation of $3 million will support procurement of life-saving medicines and vital medical supplies. The project implementation period will be up to 12 months, based on availability of supplies in the global market.
- Some 151 Health facilities including treatment isolation facilities will be supported through direct distribution of medical supplies by WHO or through sub-implementing partners.
- 446,107 patients will receive health treatments/services.

III. Timeline and Procedure

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**Eligibility Criteria**

Project proposals should follow the criteria below:

- **Protection Mainstreaming**: incorporating protection principles and promoting meaningful access, safety and dignity in humanitarian aid.

- **Accountability to affected populations**: establishing appropriate mechanisms through which affected populations are engaged in projects and can evaluate the adequacy of interventions, and address concerns or feedback.

- **Technical soundness**: the proposal meets technical requirements to implement the planned activities.

- **Cost effectiveness**: the budget is fair, proportionate in relation to the context. Proposals demonstrating better cost effectiveness will be prioritized, where: a) for comparable activities and outputs, the total 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.

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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.