GUIDANCE NOTE 1

WHAT IS THE SUDAN HUMANITARIAN FUND?

The Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF) is a cost-effective way to support humanitarian action in Sudan. Under the direction of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), the SHF supports the allocation of funds to the people most in need. It provides funding to non-governmental and UN organizations. The SHF receives donor contributions and supports the humanitarian response all year round.

HOW SHF WORKS

The Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF) receives contributions from donors – mainly governments – into a single fund. The money is used for ongoing humanitarian operations and to respond to new emergencies. The SHF reinforces and relies on existing coordination structures, which allows for evidence-based prioritization and complementarity with humanitarian, development and peacebuilding funding mechanisms. A positioning paper is developed every year which highlights the strategic focus and guides allocations for that year.

The added value of the SHF

As a fast and flexible source of funding to international and national organisations, SHF supports an efficient and coordinated response to humanitarian needs. It strengthens leadership and coordination and ensures inclusiveness and partnership.

ALLOCATION MODALITIES

Standard allocations

The Standard Allocation supports the Humanitarian Response Plan. Depending on the expected humanitarian situation for the year, a portion of the SHF available funds is allocated this way. To receive grants, eligible NGOs apply for funding and undergo a rigorous selection process. Their interventions are assessed against prioritized needs, activities and geographical locations, ensuring a highly strategic and coordinated use of funds.

Reserve allocations

Reserve for emergency allocations support new and deteriorating emergencies. Using the Emergency Rapid Response Mechanism (ERRM), Reserve for Emergencies Projects (RfEP), and prepositioned stock, the SHF enables the Humanitarian Coordinator to provide an immediate and effective humanitarian response.

SHF PARTNERS

SHF funding is available to international and national NGOs, organizations of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and UN organisations that have passed due diligence and capacity assessments. To receive grants, these organisations have to meet performance targets and provide financial reports. The SHF prioritizes funding for NGOs as front-line responders, in line with World Humanitarian Summit commitments. Partnerships with and support for national NGOs facilitate a humanitarian response in areas with limited access and they help build national capacity.

SHF DONORS

Since 2006, the SHF has received over $1.4 billion from 15 donor countries and private donors. The SHF is trusted by donors due to its effectiveness, coordinated approach and established accountability systems – employing an exceptionally robust and reliable online
Grant Management System. Contributions to the SHF are managed by the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF).

SHF GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance structure

The Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) for Sudan oversees the fund and its allocations. The HC is supported in making funding decisions by the SHF Humanitarian Financing Unit in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the SHF Advisory Board and IASC coordination structures.

The SHF Advisory Board represents the views of donors, UN agencies and international and national NGOs and provides strategic advice to the HC on SHF allocations, policies and governance. It is a forum to share information on funding gaps and coverage, ensuring the transparency and relevance of SHF allocations, reviews the operational activities of the fund and undertakes periodic risk analysis.

The SHF is governed by an Operational Manual, which is within the framework provided by the Operational Handbook for Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) which describes the rules that apply to all CBPFs. The SHF Operational Manual has been adapted and tailored to the humanitarian context of Sudan.

Management of the SHF

The SHF Humanitarian Financing Unit handles programmatic and financial aspects of the Fund and provides management support to the HC, which includes oversight of allocations, contracting, programmatic and financial monitoring and reporting, and other accountability processes.

SHF distributes funds through either the Standard Allocation (SA) and the Reserve for Emergencies (RFE) allocation.