Sudan Humanitarian Fund Positioning Paper 2021

The Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF) is a country-based pooled fund that contributes to *saving lives and protecting people in need by strengthening a coordinated and principled humanitarian response in Sudan*. The SHF enables humanitarian actors to respond early and fast to the prioritized humanitarian needs set out in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and incidents of critical, emergency needs. All projects and interventions the fund supports are consistent with the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence; further, they are in line with the Minimum Operating Standards approved by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT).

The IASC endorsed four underfunded priorities are targeted by the SHF:

(a) support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, reproductive health and empowerment; (b) programmes targeting disabled people; (c) education in protracted crises; and (d) other aspects of protection.

Specifically, for 2021 SHF has identified the following priorities for its continued relevance:

- **Focus on emergency readiness – emergency response – anticipatory financing**
  - The SHF aims to maintain a Reserve for Emergencies of US$ 10 million throughout the year to be able to respond effectively to emergencies.
  - SHF’s emergency response is initiated through the **Emergency Rapid Response Mechanism (ERRM)**, complemented with the **SHF prepositioned stock** modalities. This response addresses critical humanitarian needs in ES/NFI, health, protection and WASH, and should reach the people in need within the week.
  - Both ERRM and prepositioned stock are replenished through the Reserve for Emergencies when falling under pre-set thresholds. Both funding allocations will be robust enough to address the first needs, with each around $6 million allocated at any given time.

- **Focus on a robust multi-sector emergency response**
  - SHF’s secondary (after ERRM), emergency response is the **Reserve for Emergency (RfE)** modality, for short-term critical life-saving intervention (based on CERF life-saving criteria) for which critical funding gaps exist.
  - The SHF will consider underfunded priorities to be included in RfE projects.
  - The SHF will liaise with CERF to complement the humanitarian emergency response.

- **Focus on underserved emergencies, underfunded priorities, localization and emergency recovery priorities through the Standard Allocation**
  - The **Standard Allocation** will be held at least once a year. The SHF aims to use 50% of its budget for the Standard Allocation. Projects of the Standard Allocation are used as vehicle for the ERRM. As such, the SHF aims to have in each State in Sudan a Standard Allocation project implemented by a partner able to implement first response emergency interventions. The Standard Allocation will also contribute to increased humanitarian presence in underserved areas as well.
- The Standard Allocation will focus on the underfunded priorities and underserved emergencies and is aligned with the HRP. It will also contribute to the Sudan country-wide multi-sector needs assessment and other common services.
- The Standard Allocation will focus on life-saving humanitarian interventions.

- **focus on localization through:**
  - Reserved proportion of funding in Standard Allocation for NNGO’s.
  - Coordinating bi-monthly meetings with national NGO’s implementing SHF projects.

- **Strengthening accountability, PSEA and risk management**
  - Adopting and implementing tailored, bespoke frameworks and monitoring and reporting approaches which facilitate the strategic ambitions of the fund.
  - SHF will support and stimulate to the HCT protection strategy by mainstreaming protection and safeguarding into all aspects of project and programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
  - SHF will focus on improving project relevance, efficiency and quality, with further integrating and mainstreaming accountability to affected people, gender and do-no-harm at all project stages.

- **Seeking complementarity with CERF**
  - Through joint prioritization exercises for allocations where relevant – as well as with country-level humanitarian, recovery and development funding mechanisms. This will help ensure that funding is allocated effectively, leveraging complementarities.
  - The Secretary-General’s Agenda for Humanity calls on donors to contribute 15 per cent of the HRP coverage of the previous year through country based pooled funds, in support of increasing the impact and coverage of principled, coordinated, and needs driven financing for humanitarian action. For 2021, the SHF strives to have contributions of US$130 million.