

# Principles guiding 2019 allocations

**ENDORSED by ADVISORY BOARD** (27 Sep 2018)



The overall food security situation in Somalia has improved in 2018, particularly in areas worst affected by the 2016-2017 drought. The gains are, however, fragile as it will take communities several seasons to recover from residual impact of drought, ongoing displacements, conflict, seasonal floods and cyclones. Protection risks are on the rise across the country given the increase in population displacements and an upsurge in forced evictions. Low-lying and riverine areas remain prone to floods.

To further sustain response and build on the fragile gains, the focus on life-saving assistance will remain an urgent priority. Since 2017, the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) channelled most of its resources for famine prevention response and to assist communities affected by rapid onset disasters like floods or cyclones. The clear strategic focus of the Fund was complemented by embracing and operationalizing **integration** of response and **localization**.

As of September 2018, **97%** of 2018 allocations have been allocated to **NGOs** and **47%** to **local/national partners**, with **48 partners receiving funding** (47 NGOs and 1 UN agency).

The SHF continued to actively encourage efficiency in response through continued promotion of **integrated response** in 2018, cementing the Fund as a leading mechanism in the Somalia context to promote and enable integration; almost half of its 2018 funding had been allocated to integrated multi-cluster interventions, with the inter-cluster coordination mechanism and cluster coordinators in the centre of the **prioritization** process, enabling a more coherent, efficient and effective response and ultimately empowering coordination.

Taking stock of the Fund's comparative advantages – the un-earmarked nature of the Fund; the established and functioning accountability systems; integration within the existing coordination systems; and flexibility, which also allows for a quick deployment or redeployment of the SHF funds in sudden onset situations – the following principles should guide the SHF allocations in 2019:

1. Continued focus on **life-saving humanitarian** response with focus on, if and when possible, **underserved and hard-to access areas**;
2. **Ensuring the centrality of protection** in all SHF-funded interventions;
3. Prioritization of **direct implementation** through international and national non-governmental partners, accounting for at least 80% of available annual SHF funding;
4. Support for **local partners** by striving to channel at least **40%** of available funding directly through national partners (if, when and where feasible);
5. Continue supporting **integration of response across clusters** and **complementarity with other funding sources** in support of a stronger collective response.
6. Support funding for **pipelines, enabling programmes** and other **support services** provided by the United Nations or NGOs, up to a maximum of 20% of annually available funds;

While SHF is guided by support for non-governmental and local partner, in particular, the overarching objective remains that funding should be channelled through partners that are best-placed to deliver prioritized activities in accordance with humanitarian principles in a timely, effective and impactful manner. Notwithstanding these principles, the Humanitarian Coordinator has the final responsibility to define the strategic focus and amounts of Fund allocations, taking into consideration the advice of the advisory board; and to make final decisions on projects recommended for funding. This responsibility is exclusive to the HC and cannot be delegated.