

Sudan Humanitarian Fund Positioning Paper 2020

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). Specifically, for 2020 SHF has identified the following priorities for its continued relevance.

- Making allocations to the partners that are *best placed to deliver* humanitarian services. This is based on their ability to achieve results, manage risks, and be accountable programmatically and financially. Where appropriate, and with due consideration to the humanitarian principles, the SHF will seek to advance the Grand Bargain commitment for agency and more funding, with accompanying support, going to local and national responders. Learning from previous innovative approaches, SHF will support complementary roles and responsibilities for international and national partners. Gaps in capacity, identified during SHF capacity assessments or through ongoing project monitoring by implementing partners themselves or SHF monitoring missions, are to be expected and SHF will work with those partners on modalities for addressing.
- Strengthening the quality of allocation strategies and processes by supporting the Humanitarian Coordinator, the Humanitarian Country Team and the Advisory Board to identify priorities for funding within approved response plans, notably HRP, the emergency response preparedness and contingency plans for known, recurrent incidents. Longer-term, multi-year humanitarian interventions are relevant in the context of Sudan, promoting greater sustainability of interventions to affected people, and complementarity with other funding mechanisms.
- Supporting the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) preemptively identify funding gaps in priority sectors and locations, especially those newly accessible or where anticipatory action is required for a proactive, innovative response. SHF will stimulate multi-sectoral programmes where appropriate, recognizing that single-sector programmes may be more effective in some circumstances.
- Strengthening accountability, risk management and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) by adopting and implementing tailored, bespoke frameworks and monitoring and reporting approaches which facilitate the strategic ambitions of the fund. SHF will support and affect stimulus to the HCT protection strategy by mainstreaming protection and safeguarding into all aspects of project and programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. A beefed-up SHF team, richer in diversity, will focus on improving project relevance, efficiency and quality through the entire project cycle, with further integrating and mainstreaming accountability to affected people, gender and do-no-harm at all project stages considered paramount.

- Allocations will be based on needs assessments; whenever possible, joint or coordinated, inter-agency, multi-sectoral assessments. The better use of data will inform decisions, so SHF can be nimble and proactive, considering the time-sensitive nature of activities, including those affected by the seasons. We know what events- climatic and health-related- are coming, so SHF encouraging a mindset to anticipate, and being reflective on what- and who- worked well in previous responses, will raise the bar in effectiveness and efficiency.
- The Reserve for Emergencies (RfE) window will be maintained at \$6 million throughout the year in line with historical RfE allocation levels. The RfE window will be a proactive rapid response mechanism that anticipates new or current needs, and facilitates the drafting of short-term, critical life-saving intervention plans (based on CERF life-saving criteria) for which critical funding gaps exist.
- 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 HRP funding through country based pooled funds, in support of increasing the impact and coverage of principled, coordinated, and needs driven financing for humanitarian action. For 2020, the humanitarian coordinator has taken this aspirational target, and appraised of the positive trend that sees year-on-year raising of the percentage, is leading a robust resource mobilizing effort towards a realistic, appropriate goal.