South Sudan Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) 2015 Second Round Standard Allocation Strategy Paper

Introduction

- At its meeting on 11 June 2015 the CHF Advisory Board agreed to prepare for the launch of the 2015 second round standard allocation.
- This amount of this allocation round is \$24 million, as illustrated in the table. Following the allocation decisions, disbursements to partners will be tailored according to the availability of funds resulting from the actual amounts and timing of donor deposits.
- Decisions on allocations to clusters and partners will take into account other non-CHF funding streams, including CERF grants.

Donor	Amount \$	Remarks
Current MPTF balance:	\$2.5m	At 22 June 2015
Australia	\$2.3m	Committed
Belgium	\$2.2m	Pledged
Italy	\$0.5m	Pledged
UK	\$15.3m	Committed
Others	\$3.0m	Estimated
Less fees and adjustments	\$1.8m	Estimated
Total for this allocation	\$24.0m	

Humanitarian response plan

- 4. The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2015 encompasses three strategic objectives: saving lives and alleviating suffering through multi-sectoral assistance; protecting the rights of the most vulnerable; and improving self-reliance and coping capacities by protecting, restoring and promoting livelihoods.
- 5. This allocation round follows the recently concluded mid-year review of the HRP. The mid-year review highlights a deteriorating situation in the country characterised by an *intensification of conflict,* particularly in highly contested areas that have seen widespread violence and abuse, most notably Unity and Upper Nile states; and an *economic downturn*, with rising inflation, increasing scarcity of some essential commodities, and growing strain on public sector cash flows and state provided services.
- 6. Humanitarian needs are increasing consequentially. Displacement, targeted violence against civilians, restricted movement and dysfunctional markets aggravate hunger and malnutrition. Some 4.6 million people are estimated to be severely food insecure between May and July 2015 (IPC 3 and 4), with some 250,000 children under five years old at risk of severe acute malnutrition. An undeclared cholera outbreak poses a significant risk. An estimated 610,000 urban dwellers are at risk due to high food prices and the erosion of basic services. Economic pressures will force more children out of school and into early marriage, participation in the conflict and other exploitative situations. Health risks to the population are exacerbated by poor sanitation and insufficient clean water, with malaria and gastrointestinal conditions the main diseases resulting in death. More than half of all health facilities in the three states of Greater Upper Nile are not functioning whilst, nationwide, there is a potential stock-out of essential drugs in the last quarter of the year. An estimated 23,000 women and girls of reproductive age are at risk of sexual violence. Lives will be at most risk where the effects of violence, displacement, food insecurity, malnutrition and disease converge to produce the greatest level of compound need.
- 7. To assist 4.6 million people, the revised financial requirement of the HRP amounts to US\$1.63 billion, with a gap of nearly \$1 billion at the point of the mid-year review. Notwithstanding a continued Level 3 Emergency declaration, the scale of humanitarian needs will continue to outstrip the collective response capability of the humanitarian community, necessitating rigorous prioritisation.

Overarching parameters for endorsement and prioritisation of cluster strategies (and determination of cluster envelopes)

- 8. This allocation round will provide resources in support of *most critical elements of the humanitarian operation* during the rainy season following the mid-year review of the HRP. Its primary focus will be on the first of the three HRP objectives: saving lives and alleviating suffering through multi-sectoral assistance. After the launch of the allocation process, clusters will develop and defend cluster-specific strategies for this round. These must correspond to these parameters:
 - activities that directly address life-threatening needs. Cluster strategies should be based on evidence that clearly
 demonstrates how the proposed interventions address the most critical of survival requirements. This should be

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informed by the CERF¹ life-saving criteria and guidance. Funding should boost front line assistance through alternative delivery modalities and / or the re-establishment of on-the-ground presence, particularly where capacities have been undermined by the destruction of humanitarian infrastructure and assets or where populations have fled to previously un-served areas.

- *activities in locations where life-threatening needs are greatest.* Cluster strategies should be informed by the 'heat maps' produced for the mid-year review of the HRP to guide geographical prioritisation.
- activities in support of essential common humanitarian services that pertain to life-saving strategies. Cluster strategies may encompass common services that are essential in enabling frontline life-saving activities to take place in locations where needs are most severe. Common logistics services for the transportation of cargo and personnel, common security services and common (core) pipelines are eligible for consideration. In the case of the latter, requests must be limited to avoid potential stock outs during 2015, unless there are other exceptional and compelling circumstances that merit consideration.
- activities for which complete implementation is feasible in 2015. The limited resources available under this
 allocation round are to be put to immediate use. In the face of insecurity and other access constraints, cluster
 strategies should include a compelling analysis in support of the feasibility of implementation.
- activities that represent best value for money. Cluster strategies should consider rationalisation of operational
 partners as well as alternative approaches and modalities that optimise the use of resources, and demonstrate
 how the proposed strategy compares to other alternatives for a given cost.
- activities that demonstrate how impact will be enhanced by placing cross-cutting issues at the fore. Cluster strategies must integrate protection and gender considerations, and should consider as appropriate HIV and AIDS, accountability to affected populations and environmental issues.
- support to the refugee response (multi-sector cluster) and food aid are not eligible.

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IMPORTANT NOTE:-

Following feedback and suggestions from stakeholders on the 2015 first standard allocation round, the process for this second standard allocation round will be refined.

Most notably, following the launch of this allocation strategy paper the clusters will develop and defend their cluster specific strategies, priorities and funding requirements <u>before</u> calling for proposals from implementing partners. In this way, cluster propositions will be reviewed and prioritised by the CHF AB, and cluster funding envelopes established, **before** individual funding applications are submitted by partners.

The intention is to introduce more boundaries at an earlier stage in the overall process, minimising the extent to which stakeholders may invest time and effort in formulating and reviewing funding applications that may eventually fall outside of what the CHF AB is willing and able to endorse.

As such, this overarching allocation strategy paper makes high level statements about the humanitarian situation and focuses on parameters for the development of cluster specific strategies.

A separate paper will set out other stipulations related to the eligibility of specific project proposals, as well as parameters for their ranking and selection for funding.

¹ The Central Emergency Response Fund