

2019 Second Round Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund Standard Allocation

Allocation Strategy Paper

Project Proposal Deadline: 22 November 2019

I. Allocation Overview

A) Introduction

This document outlines the strategic objectives for the 2019 Second Round Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund (EHF) Standard Allocation¹. The allocation strategy supports critical humanitarian response priorities and funding gaps that were agreed upon and presented in the ‘Prioritization’ section of the Mid-Year Review of the Humanitarian Response Plan (MYR-HRP) for the second half of 2019. The section provides strategic prioritization focusing on geographic locations, narrowed down based on severity of needs; its targets identifying the most vulnerable populations; and immediate and life-saving activities for response.

The Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) in consultation with the Advisory Board approved a **\$25 million** allocation to support the nearly \$230 million ‘high priority’ funding requirements identified in the MYR to address critical gaps in the non-food sector for the remainder of the year.

The Ethiopian Humanitarian Fund (EHF) second round **allocation is based on \$17.1 million available contribution and nearly \$10 million commitments in the pipeline**. Disbursement to partners will be made as per actual transfer/deposit of donor contributions.

The EHF allocated some \$35 million in April 2019 responding to the needs of returnees and IDPs and other drought like situations in the country.

B) Humanitarian Situation

The humanitarian landscape of Ethiopia continues to be dominated by challenges posed by intercommunal conflict and the resultant mass internal displacements (IDPs). The number of internally displaced people spiked from 1.7 million at the end of 2017 to 3.2 million by mid-2019, of whom 2.6 million were displaced due to conflict. In May 2019, Government launched a return plan that saw the return of 2.1 million IDPs from major areas of displacement in Gedeo-West Guji, Wollega and Kemashi in SNNP, Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz regions. The sudden return of massive number of IDPs presented new recovery and rehabilitation needs to the humanitarian community which could not be matched by existing resources.

The impact of extreme weather variability continues to be felt with some areas experiencing drought, while others are impacted by flooding. Floods up to July have affected 271,000 and displaced over 81,000

¹ In accordance with operational modalities outlined in the EHF Operational Manual issued by the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), a Standard Allocation is triggered following the launch of the Government / Partner Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and its subsequent mid-year review that identifies acute relief needs and major gaps that require urgent response. The HC, in consultation with the Advisory Board determines the amount to be allocated through the allocation.

people. Heavy rainfalls during the 2019 summer/*kiremt* (June- September) rainy season are likely to cause flash and/ or river floods in low laying areas.

Meanwhile, the current Horn of Africa drought is affecting the eastern and south eastern lowlands of the country as a result of delayed and sub-optimal 2019 spring (mid-February-May) rains. Consequently, crop planting was delayed or missed, while pasture and water sources were not replenished. The effects of the drought are being felt in most of Somali and pastoralist areas of Oromia and Afar regions. Reports of deteriorating food and nutritional security, water shortages and worsening livestock body conditions and livestock deaths have increased, while concerns are rising over pipeline breaks in emergency supplies and interruption of life-saving operations due to funding shortfalls. Some of the drought-affected areas are also hosting IDPs and returnees.

Disease outbreaks such as measles and cholera, are further stretching the meagre Government and partners' resources and adding another layer of complexity. At least 1,180 suspected and 44 confirmed cholera cases and 8,201 suspected measles cases were reported across the country as of 5 September 2019. Food insecurity and malnutrition coupled with disease outbreaks and weakened immunity and vulnerability after over a year in displacement in over-crowded and sub-standard living conditions have increased the risk of morbidity and mortality of affected communities.

Since 2018 and throughout 2019, humanitarian access - understood as “people’ access to protection and assistance services” as well as “humanitarian partners’ ability to reach people in need” worsened in Ethiopia as a result of a multiplication of localized armed conflicts. This, in addition to changes in context and limited amount of funding received by partners, will affect overall operational capacity in the second half of 2019.

C) The Mid-Year Review of the Humanitarian Response Plan of 2019

The Humanitarian Response Plan Mid-Year Review, released in late October 2019, outlines collectively agreed humanitarian funding priorities reflecting analysis from the seasonal *belg* assessment, DTM/Village assessments, information from regional response plans (Somali region, West Guji and Gedeo zones) and flood contingency plans. It also considers operational gaps in response, critical pipeline requirements and inputs from inter-cluster prioritization exercise. The document supports donor funding decisions.

The MYR identified some 7.8 million people as still requiring humanitarian assistance worth of US\$ 319 million. The 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) further identified 4.56 m people who are in acute humanitarian need (1.35m are IDPs or returnees) for continued prioritization for humanitarian assistance until the end of the 2019. Out of which, for the non-food clusters, there are 4.1 million people targeted in these priority woredas.

With a level of funding close to 63 per cent so far, the MYR undertook a more drastic prioritization considering that many activities will not be able to be carried out during the last part of the year. Since reaching all people in need is also not realistic with the current capacity and funding, the most vulnerable communities are targeted including displaced persons and living with host communities, returnees and host communities in geographic locations identified.

The total ‘high priority’ funding requirements to address critical gaps for the remainder of the year in the prioritized areas is nearly \$230 million in the context of Strategic Objective 1 – ‘*Lives are saved and sustained*’ (\$220.4 million) and Strategic Objective 2 – ‘*Protection services for affected communities are provided*’ (8.9 million).

II. Allocation Strategy/ Breakdown

A) Purpose of the Allocation Strategy and linkages to the MYR- HRP

The Prioritization section in the MYR-HRP proposes to focus interventions in areas categorized as being of either ‘Major’ or ‘Severe’ in terms of severity of needs, focusing on the most vulnerable communities. *Please refer to the severity map included in the MYR-HRP (page 7).*

In the context of the immediate priorities included in the MYR, the EHF Advisory Board in its meeting of 1 November recommended funding to the highest priority sectors of Agriculture (\$2 m), Education (\$1.5 m), Health (\$2.5 m), NFI/Emergency Shelter (\$2.5 m), Protection (\$2 m), WASH (\$ 3.5 m) and nutrition (\$4 million). Additionally, an allocation of \$4 million is enveloped for Somali Region response to be determined locally in consultation with sub-national inter-cluster group. A further \$3 million is dedicated to continuing a multi-sectoral integrated response in WASH, Health and ES/NFI through a pilot consortium response programme called SWAN².

Immediate and life-saving activities including access to safe water, establishment of sanitation facilities, support to health and nutrition services; averting pipeline breaks, responding to the shelter and other needs of IDPs/ returnees, and ensuring continuity of presence of partners already implementing in priority *woredas*. Protection services for IDPs and other groups with specific needs are also prioritized for funding.

Locations that experienced displacements and returns following conflicts between communities in West Guji zone; East and West Hararghe zones; and East and West Wellega zones of Oromia region; Kamashi zone in Benishangul Gumuz region; and Somali region are recommended for prioritized response.

The allocation also considers the Emergency Relief Coordinators (ERC) priority areas whereby response in the critical sectors of protection and education were prioritized for funding. Additionally, prioritized caseloads of people with disabilities and women and girls will be covered by the severity of needs analysis that guided the MYR targeting strategy focusing on vulnerability.

The Second first round EHF Standard Allocation window is prioritized as follows:

| Sectors for response | Amount in million (US\$) | Coordination |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Agriculture and Livestock | 2.00 | Agriculture Cluster |
| Education | 1.50 | Education Cluster |
| Emergency Shelter/ Non-Food Items | 2.50 | ES/NFI Cluster |
| Health | 2.50 | Health Cluster |
| Nutrition | 4 | ENCU |
| Protection | 2.00 | Protection Cluster |
| WASH | 3.50 | WASH Cluster |
| SWAN | 3 .00 | Consortium INGO (SCI, World Vision, AAH and NRC) |

² SWAN is a humanitarian consortium drawn from four INGOs (Save the children, World Vision, Action Against Hunger and Norwegian Refugee Council) to facilitate timely and coordinated multi-sector (joint) response in ES/NFI, WASH and Health across the country based on geographic coverage and implementation capacity of the consortium members.

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| Somali region | 4.00 | Sub-National ICCG |
| Total | 25.00 | |

B) Prioritization of Projects

In coherence with the 2019 MYR-HRP published on 18 October 2019, this allocation will prioritize support to activities that address the below requirements:

- 1) Consider communities based on vulnerability (regardless of their status), focusing on needs-based targeting;
- 2) address geographic priorities identified based on ‘inter-sectoral severity of needs’ analysis as guided by the MYR-HRP;
- 3) Cash is considered as preferred modality of response where feasible;
- 4) are time critical, ensuring timely delivery of emergency response activities;
- 5) are critically enabling of other multi-sector responses would not be possible;
- 6) are implemented by organizations that are part of the federal and local coordination structure;
- 7) project duration should be set at the minimum necessary for efficient implementation of the project and may not be longer than 12 months;
- 8) projects should be cost efficient and should include the following cross-cutting themes: accountability to affected populations, ‘do no harm’, protection, gender and age;
- 9) are coordinated to avoid project implementation or funding overlap.

D) Allocation Strategic Priorities

| Sectors | Prioritized Activities | Geographic Areas ³ | Amount in million (US\$) | Coordinating Organization |
|--|---|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Agriculture & Livestock | Emergency feed; animal health; rehabilitation of damaged crop production structure | North-eastern and south-eastern drought affected areas | 2.00m | FAO |
| Emergency Shelter/ Non-Food Items | Procurement and provision of ES/ NFI; provision of emergency shelter repair kits through in kind and in cash support | Priority in conflict displacement and return areas, flooding areas as prioritized by the sector | 2.5m | IOM |
| Education | Accelerated school readiness; accelerated learning programme; provision of psychosocial and emotional support to teachers and students | Priority in Conflict displacement and return areas | 1.5m | UNICEF |
| Health | Procurement and placement of emergency health and reproductive kits at health facilities; surge support to health facilities; strengthen/ establish MHNTs | Countrywide as prioritized by the Health Cluster | 2.5m | WHO |

³ Areas categorized as ‘major’ / ‘severe’ in the MYR HRP based on inter-sectoral severity of needs analysis must be considered for guiding prioritized response in all sectors.

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| Nutrition | NGO Presence in Priority one and IDP/ returnee hosting woredas with low capacity to manage significant increase in Acute malnutrition. Support to GoE surge (with exit strategy) | In the 205 woredas identified in the MYR by the ENCU | 4m | ENCU |
| | Pipeline support to nutrition commodities. | Countrywide | | |
| Protection | Activities in support of Protection activities included in MY-HRP objectives 1 &2 | Priority in Conflict displacement and return areas | 2 m | UNHCR |
| | Support to partners integrating protection indicators in projects of other sectors | | | |
| WASH | Provision of safe water supply to vulnerable communities Installation of sanitation facilities; procurement and provision of essential life-saving WASH NFIs, surge support for sub-national emergency coordination/response; | As prioritized by the WASH cluster | 3.5m | UNICEF |
| ❖ NGO Consortium Response | Priority sectors of WASH, Health and ES/NFIs | Priority areas as triaged by the three sectors | 3m | SWAN Lead – Save the Children International |
| Sectors to be determined in consultation with sub-national and inter-cluster group | Priorities for all critical sectors within parameters of HRP and activities described in Prioritization Document | Somali (priority areas) | 4m | Sub-National ICCG |
| TOTAL | | | 25m | |

❖ **Note: The NGO consortium allocation is on hold until operational discussion with WASH, Health and ES/NFI cluster coordinators is organized and common way forward is agreed.**

III. Timeline and Procedure

| Activity | Indicative duration | Stakeholders involved |
|--|---|-----------------------|
| EHF eligible ⁴ partners submit applications through GMS | 10 working days from 11 November (by 22 November) | Partners |
| Strategic review completed CCs present portfolio to AB | 5 working days (by 29 November) | AB, CCs, HFU |
| HC endorsement | 2 working days (by 3 December) | HC |
| Re-submission of applications | 3 working days (by 6 December) | Partners |

⁴ Eligible organizations are international and national NGOs and organizations of the Red Cross Movement who have undergone the due diligence and capacity assessment process to receive funding from the EHF and UN Agencies.

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| Financial and technical review & re-submission of budget | 5 working days (by 13 December) | CCs, HFU, FCS, Partners |
| Project proposals re-submission | 2 days (by 17 December) | Partners |
| HC to share list of project proposals with AB & HC Final Approval | 2 days (by 19 December) | HC, AB, HFU |
| Finalization of Grant Agreement | 4 working days (by 26 December) | Partners, HC, HFU |

Criteria for Technical Review of Projects

- All applications must be subject to technical review, usually led by cluster coordinators or through a process organized by OCHA if the application is from the Cluster Lead agency.

IV. Allocation Approach

- With locations and response requirements clearly defined, the primary modality of this allocation will be the proactive identification of best placed partners for the response through cluster coordination and working group mechanisms. This approach will ensure efficient prioritization and rapid processing of applications.
- Organizations that have ongoing EHF project and apply for the same activities and locations under this allocation should clearly indicate how the new funding will complement the previously EHF-funded project. The decision on funding will be subject to that value of the currently ongoing IP projects, taking into consideration the EHF-assigned risk levels and the relevant thresholds.
- All proposals to clearly outline how project will ensure attention to protection issues and targeting of the most vulnerable groups. EHF will be accepting of additional budget lines in this regard as reasonable.
- Sectoral allocations should deprioritize Somali region and liaise with sub national cluster coordinators to access the Somali allocation.
- In areas where development funds exist, EHF funds should be used as catalyst and in complement of these initiatives.
- Applications received after the deadline will not be processed.**

Key Contacts

- EHF Management Team: *Tim Mander (mander@un.org) & Senait Arefaine (arefaines@un.org)*
- EHF feedback and complaint mechanism: *feedback-ehf@un.org*
- Cluster Coordinators Contacts:

| Title | Organization | Full name | Email |
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| ES-NFI Cluster Coordinator | IOM | Yodit Gutema | mgutema@iom.int; shelternfi.ethiopia@gmail.com |
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