

Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) – Briefing Note

The Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) for Sudan is a pooled funding mechanism for humanitarian activities in Sudan; first established in 2005 as a pilot project and fully implemented and operational since 2006. Only humanitarian projects included in the *UN and Partners Work Plan for Sudan* (the Work Plan) are eligible for CHF funding. The main objective of the CHF is to provide early and predictable funding and to support the timely allocation and disbursement of donor resources to the most critical humanitarian needs of Sudan under direction of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC).

The CHF is designed to give the HC greater ability to target funds to the most critical needs, encourage donor contributions and allow rapid response to unforeseen needs. Both the Work Plan and the CHF help advance humanitarian aid reforms as proposed in the Secretary-General's report, *In Larger Freedom*, such as strengthened response capacity, more predictable and timely funding to organizations, strengthened coordination, as well as donor endorsement of good humanitarian donorship principles.

Under the CHF, donors pool their funds; however, the HC manages the funds with support from OCHA and UNDP. OCHA serves as the CHF technical unit and is responsible for managing the allocation process, whereas UNDP is the administrative agent managing the disbursement of funds to recipient organizations.

The Allocation Process

There are two mechanisms for allocation: a standard allocation mechanism used for allocating the bulk of funds and ensuring early funding for priority projects, and; a rapid onset mechanism used in the event of unforeseen needs. An emergency reserve of no more than 10% of committed funds is kept aside.

The CHF Advisory Group, comprising the CHF donors, select non-CHF donors, heads of key UN Agencies and two rotating representative NGO heads, support and advises the HC in the CHF process. For each allocation round, policy papers are agreed upon delineating targeted allocations, regional allocation envelopes and overarching humanitarian priorities. Based on the policy paper and the regional and sector priorities of the Work Plan, area coordinators and sector leaders decide on sectoral allocations within regions, after which sector leaders in consultation with all sector members select actual Work Plan projects to fund within the sector. The process is regionalized as much as possible with selection of projects made in the regions. Final reviews are made by a central sectoral review group and the Advisory Group. To ensure transparency and accountability, minutes are publicly available and reviewed by the HC to ensure that regional allocation decisions are in line with Work Plan priorities and policies. Adjustments are made by the HC if necessary.

Emergency Response Fund

The Emergency Response Fund (ERF) in Southern Sudan is currently implemented as a fast track window of the CHF. The ERF is managed by the DRC/HC for Southern Sudan and the Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan, while UNDP manages the disbursement of funds to recipient organizations. Currently in 2009, the ERF received US\$1.5 million.

Donor Funding

In 2008, donors committed US\$142.1 million to the CHF, approximately 9.9% of total humanitarian donor funding funded the 2008 Work Plan for Sudan. In 2007, donors committed US\$167 million which was approximately 13% of total humanitarian donor funding the 2007 Work Plan and in 2006, donors committed US\$172 million which was approximately 15% of total humanitarian donor funding to the 2006 Work Plan. Currently, donors have pledged approximately US\$99.4 million.

Donor	2006 Contributions (US\$)	2007 Contributions (US\$)	2008 Contributions (US\$)	Current 2009 Pledges (US\$)
Denmark	-	-	0.4 million ¹	-
Ireland	2.5 million	4 million	6.3 million	3.9 million
Netherlands	51.3 million	37 million	25.6 million	15 million
Norway	14 million	17.5 million	17 million	13.4 million
Spain	-	9.5 million		8.7 million ²
Sweden	16 million	20 million	20.6 million	9 million
United Kingdom	88.5 million	79 million	79.5 million	49.4 million
Total	172.3 million	167 million	149.4 million	99.4 million

¹ This amount is the 2007 contribution which was transferred in 2008.

² This amount is the 2008 contribution which was transferred in 2009.