

CHF Advisory Board

Meeting minutes, 29 August 2014

Agenda

- HC opening remarks
- CHF updates
- CHF proposed allocation under the emergency reserve to compliment CERF UFE (UFE)
- AOB

Board members	Organization	Name	Present / absent
Members	Humanitarian Coordinator (HC)	Philippe Lazzarini	Present
	Sweden	Urban Sjöström	Present
	DFID	Will Helyan	Present
	ECHO	Mira Gratier	Present
	FAO	Rudi Van Aaken	Present
	NGO Consortium	Tanja Schumer	Present
	NRC	Gabriella Waaijman	Present
	Save the Children	Ashebir Debebe	Present
	Kisima	Mohamed Said Mohamud	Absent
	UNICEF	Oscar Butragueno	Present
	WFP	Laurent Bukera	Present
	UNHCR	Alessandro Morelli	Absent
OCHA	OCHA	Edem Wosornu	Present
	OCHA	Sofie Garde Thomle	Present
CHF Secretariat	OCHA	Alta Haggarty	Present
	OCHA	Afifa Ismail	Present
	OCHA	John Ndiku	Present

1. Introduction

The Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) welcomed the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) Advisory Board (AB) members. He informed member that the purpose of the meeting was to approve allocation of funds under the CHF reserve mechanism. The reserve allocation will complement the US\$20 million CERF UFE that has been allocated to UN agencies.

The HC informed members the CHF would not undertake a full second standard allocation given available funding. He was pleased to report however, that donors who had frozen funding to the CHF awaiting the outcome of the Swedish assessment on Somalia CHF accountability systems had resumed funding after a favourable assessment outcome, and expressed his appreciation to those donors.

Welcoming new OCHA Somalia staff members, the HC introduced Ms. Alta Haggarty, the new Humanitarian Financing Manager, and Ms. Sofie Garde Thomle, the Deputy Head of OCHA Somalia office. He then invited an update from the Fund Manager.

CHF Updates

Updating the AB on CHF funding status, the Humanitarian Financing Manager informed the group that the combined carryover, contributions, commitments and pledges to the CHF would result in a total of \$54.4 million in available funds in 2014.

The manager reported that CHF had so far allocated \$30.5 million to partners, including 62 standard allocations and 12 emergency reserve allocations. To date the fund has disbursed funds to 59 standard allocation projects and to 6 emergency reserve projects. The others are have been processes and payment is pending (last stage

The Manager noted that the CHF currently had \$14 million in funds available and was expecting another \$10 million from unpaid commitments and pledges. This would bring the total to \$24 million additional funds, once all is paid.

CHF ER allocation of \$14 million to complement the CERF

Presenting the CHF emergency reserve allocation strategy, the Fund Manager reported that the strategy proposes allocate a total of \$14 million to education, food security, health, nutrition, protection, shelter and WASH clusters to complement the CERF allocation. The allocation will support the following objectives:

- Improve the nutritional situation in IDP settlements (add- and areas of high vulnerability)
- Address food insecurity in areas affected by the poor rains
- Improve basic services in underserved and newly accessible areas
- Enhance protection services to children and survivors

The Manager explained that the first two objectives, combined with the CERF UFE, would result in over 80 per cent of the available funds (FS, Nutrition, WASH and Health)

The activities will be implemented in 16 regions that are targeted by CERF and also identified as high priority by the Somali Government (16 regions- Galgaduud, Hiraan, Bakool, Bay, Gedo, Middle Shabelle, Lower Shabelle, Banadir, Middle Juba, Lower Juba Bari, Nugaal, Mudug, Togdheer ,Sool and Sanaag

After discussions, the AB recommended the allocation be increased to \$20 million from the originally proposed \$14 million, to be more efficient and to strengthen the response given high needs. With \$14 million currently available, the AB agreed a progressive allocation on first-come first-served basis as commitments and pledges are paid.

The additional funds were allocated to WASH (\$2 million), food security (\$2 million), and nutrition (\$1 million). The AB also approved the allocation of \$1 million to enabling programmes, specifically UNHAS, to support the implementation of cluster activities. The allocation will complement CERF funds as summarized below:

Advisory Board approved allocation by cluster.

Cluster	Proposed CHF allocation (\$)	CERF UFE (\$)	Total (CHF & CERF) (\$)	Percentage
Education	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	5%
Food security	4,000,000	8,000,000	12,000,000	30%
Health	3,000,000	3,500,000	6,500,000	16%
Nutrition	4,000,000	3,000,000	7,000,000	18%
Protection	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	5%
Shelter	2,000,000	0	2,000,000	5%
WASH	4,000,000	3,500,000	7,500,000	19%
Enabling programmes	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	3%
Total	20,000,000	20,000,000	40,000,000	

Guidance on allocation

- Partners are expected to submit their project proposals to CHF by the 16 September 2014. Partners must adhere to the set deadline and late submission will not be allowed.
- Clusters who will fail to allocate all funds by the deadline will miss the unallocated amount which will revert to CHF.

On humanitarian access, the HC noted that although vast areas still remain inaccessible, humanitarian response had not reached the already accessible areas due to low funding. Additional resources are required to support aerial access to locations with limited access by road. To get more clarity on access, the HC requested OCHA to provide clear analysis on access in terms of locations and activities.

Summary of discussions

Responding to the question whether the CHF allocation strategy objectives were in any order of priority, the fund Manager noted that in order of priority and first two objectives were more critically lifesaving and had been allocated 82 per cent of the funds.

In response to the query whether the proposed CHF allocation of \$1 to \$2 million across the cluster was strategic, the HC noted the CHF emergency reserve allocation was complementing the CERF UFE and takes into account funds that have already been allocated under the CERF UFE. As such focus should be the on total funds that have been allocated from both CERF and CHF emergency reserve.

To ensure maximum value for money, the AB emphasized the need to tighten linkages between food security and nutrition clusters and ensure a more integrated approach in all cluster activities and targeted geographic locations.

Complimenting CHF support to the logistics cluster, WFP reported that the CHF had provided significant support to aerial access to locations inaccessible by road, through allocations to UNHAS in 2014, complimenting other donor support and clusters by supporting partners' cargo transportation and staff movement to locations inaccessible by road. WFP noted the need for continued support to cargo transportation beyond the three months support from CHF and noted flights for relief workers were equally important.

Concerning the geographic locations prioritized by the CHF emergency reserve strategy, FAO concurred that there is overlap of geographic locations reported to have high humanitarian needs according to Food Security Nutrition and Analysis Unit (FSNAU) assessment conducted in July 2014, with the ones prioritised by the strategy.

On the HC's concern over the worsening WASH situation due to lack of funding and whether the situation was reported to the Advisory Board, OCHA clarified that the WASH cluster coordinator informed CHF of the increasing WASH needs and that \$1.1 million was allocated through the CHF emergency reserve to support implementation of WASH activities in affected areas. The HC emphasized the need for cluster coordinators to be active in highlighting the impact of funding gaps within their respective clusters.

Action points/Key decisions

The HC summarised the discussions as follows:

- i) The CHF emergency allocation will be increased to \$20 million from the proposed \$14 million. The additional amount will be allocated to WASH (\$2 million), food security (\$2 million), and nutrition (\$1 million).

- ii) \$1 million will be allocated to Enabling programmes, which was initially not included in the allocation strategy.
- iii) The allocation strategy needs to demonstrate strong linkages between food security and nutrition, and further ensure an integrated approach among the clusters.
- iv) The deadline for submission of proposal to CHF will be 16 September 2014 and partners are expected to respect the deadline.
- v) Cluster allocation funds that will not have been allocated to partners by the end of submission deadline will not be preserved for the cluster but will revert to CHF.

AOB

- WFP reported that a number of locations in Somalia still remain difficult to access. However, WFP has been able to access most of the areas in which they are operating except for Bulo Burto.
- On WFP's concern whether agencies should use armed escort for Bulo Burto, the Board proposed that the use of armed escorts be discussed at the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT).
- The HC noted that agencies and NGOs need to review the membership to the CHF Advisory Board. CHF will follow up with Heads of Humanitarian Agencies and NGOs.