

Reserve Allocation Strategy

Allocation Details	
Allocation Title	Preposition of funding to provide critical live-saving emergency services to vulnerable populations affected by humanitarian crisis in Amhara region
Allocation Type and Round	Second Reserve Allocation
Allocation Amount	US\$ 8 million
Emergency Type	Conflict Related Crisis
Allocation Launch Date	20 October 2023
Proposal Submission Deadline	29 October 2023
Section 1: Strategic Statement	
The recent hostilities between the government and unidentified armed groups (UAGs) in Amhara has disrupted the current humanitarian operation with no certainty of resumption of normalcy. The Ethiopian Humanitarian Fund (EHF) will pre-position \$8 million to pre-identified NGO partners with established operational presence across Amhara, allowing for provision of critical emergency life-saving assistance to most vulnerable population immediately when the situation allows to kick-start resumption of humanitarian service delivery in the severely affected zones.	
Section 2: Humanitarian Context	
The humanitarian situation in Amhara is increasingly complex due to ongoing hostilities between government and unidentified armed groups (UAGs) since July 2023, which intensified in major towns before spreading to smaller towns and remote areas in August. The insecurity caused significant deterioration of humanitarian access from mid-July making access a significant priority for the humanitarian community to scale up response to existing needs and those emerging from the current conflict. Criticality of food, WASH, health, dignity kits, and nutrition supplies noted before the current hostilities is feared to be reaching life-threatening levels due to food insecurity, malnutrition, and disease outbreaks, particularly cholera among internally displaced persons, vulnerable groups, and refugees. Civilians in Amhara have not yet recovered from three years of hostilities in Northern Ethiopia until October 2022, which impacted their lives and livelihood. Continued hostilities will worsen the hardship of the most vulnerable civilians, among them over 580,000 IDPs living in dire humanitarian conditions across several sites in the region. Though in challenging circumstances, humanitarian partners continue to monitor the situation within a context of a six-months State of Emergency for the region declared by the Ethiopian parliament on 14 August 2023. Previously displaced persons and refugees in Amhara Region, including those most vulnerable among returnees, refugees and asylum seekers crossing the Sudanese border through Metema town, West Gondar Zone, need food assistance amid insecurity and humanitarian assistance breakdown since early August 2023. Emergency life-saving assistance continues to be of priority at all crossing points with primary needs for food, shelter, and non-food items, as well as services in health, and water, hygiene, and sanitation (WASH). Improved funding, increased partner capacities and humanitarian access are critical requirements to scale up humanitarian operations in the region. Please access the following link for further information on humanitarian situation in Ethiopia: https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/ethiopia/	
Section 3. Allocation Priority	
Overview Considering the unpredictable situation and evolving crisis in Amhara Region, this allocation will apply the ‘48-hour response’ mechanism (2023 EHF Operational Manual, page 26 – 27) through pre-positioning funding with partners that will enable rapid response to the affected population as soon as the situation allows.	

The prioritized zones and woredas are based on consultations with national and regional counterparts and recent available data. Considering various sectoral needs do not exist in isolation from each other, the area-based approach allows diverse needs to interact and to align accordingly within the prioritized assistance. Thus, assistance will be provided in an integrated multisector package. The area-based approach will engage the affected population, taking into consideration sex and age-appropriate groups, through participatory design. The prioritized clusters will include Education, Health, ESNFI, Nutrition, WASH and Protection. CVA/MPC is highly recommended, when and where feasible.

In the initial submission, the project proposal will present general information, indicative locations, and budget. Following the project activation, pre-identified partners will submit revised proposals with more details based on the assessed needs in respective geographical areas as identified by most recent assessments, reports, and data. In addition, partners are expected to coordinate with the OCHA sub-office in Amhara, as well as national and sub-national cluster coordinators.

Partners (multi-sectors)	Locations	Budget (\$)
National NGO		
Positive Action for Development (PAD)	Wag Hamra, North Gondar	800,000
DEC (Development Expertise Centre (DEC)	South Wello, North Shewa	600,000
Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS)	West Gojjam	700,000
Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC)	North Gondar	600,000
Action for the Needy in Ethiopia (ANE)	South Wello	600,000
Afro Ethiopia Integrated Development Association (AEID)	West Gojjam	700,000
International NGO		
Plan International (PLAN)	Wag Hamra, South Wello	1,000,000
Save the Children International (SCI)	North Shewa	1,000,000
International Orthodox Christian Charity (IOCC)	East and West Gojjam	600,000
Food for the Hungry (FH)	North Gondar	800,000
Self Help Africa (SHA)	East Gojjam	600,000
Total		8,000,000

Section 4. CERF Complementarity

OCHA has submitted a request for \$10 million to CERF Secretariate to complement EHF allocation. The area of complementarity includes type of partners, type of activities and sectoral coverage. Both CERF and EHF will cover the same prioritized zones.

Section 5. Selection Criteria

Pre-identified Partners

1. The following criteria apply to the selection of best-placed partners for pre-positioned funding:
 - a. Geographical coverage: Capacity to directly operate and/or have access to location(s) susceptible to this emergency or have established operational presence in the targeted regions/ zones allowing for a rapid implementation of any projects to be funded under this allocation.
 - b. Operational capacity: Technical capacity to provide an integrated, multi-sector response quickly.
 - c. Sectoral expertise: Proven sectoral expertise in proposed sector activities.

Project Proposal under the '48-hour' Response Modality

2. The initial submission, project proposal should include basic information about the context, objective, and budget – however, details about the actual deployment of the funding will not be established until the security situation allows partner to activate the project.
3. Once funding has been pre-positioned, it cannot be used unilaterally. Explicit authorization must be obtained via email from OCHA Humanitarian Financing Unit (HFU). The trigger and approval for the use of the pre-positioned funding to put into effect a '48-hour response' is as follows:
 - a. Upon direction from OCHA HFU and when the security situation allows, the partner with pre-positioned funding contacts OCHA HFU. Contact may also be initiated by OCHA HFU to activate response.
 - b. The request by the partner to deploy pre-positioned funding should include basic information about the situation, needs, proposed response activities and corresponding budget utilization.
 - c. OCHA HFU consults with the HC and as required, relevant coordination platforms and stakeholders.
 - d. OCHA HFU provides a written response to the partner **within 48 hours of the partner's request**, approving or rejecting the use of the pre-positioned funding, including any caveats and conditions,

including the amount of funding to be deployed which may be all or part of the amount pre-positioned. The HC and the AB are notified.

4. Upon the project activation, OCHA will call for a coordination meeting with the pre-identified partners and cluster coordinators (national or sub-national) to ensure proper a) geographical and sectoral coverage and b) connection between the service provider by NGO partners and emergency supplies provider by UN agency.
5. Within 20 working days of the approval of the 48-hour response, the original proposal shall be modified in OneGMS to reflect detailed activities, people targeted, and budget breakdown and be formalized through a Grant Agreement Amendment. The partner is required to meet the financial and narrative reporting obligations as set out in the amended Grant Agreement.

Project Proposal Requirements

6. After the project activation and based on coordination meeting with OCHA and relevant cluster coordinators, partners will submit project revision based on the assessed needs in respective geographical areas as identified by most recent assessments, reports, and data. Only if required and justified, and taking into consideration the Do No Harm principle, partner may conduct a quick/rapid needs verification assessment.
7. Partners must consult with the OCHA sub-office in Amhara, as well as national and sub-national cluster coordinators.
8. To this, submission must include proposed sectoral requirements.
9. Project duration may not be longer than **8 months for the service delivery by NGO partners** with immediate implementation upon the project activation.

Cash and Voucher Modality

10. Partners are highly encouraged to apply a Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) modality, including Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC), provided they have the required capacity and expertise. Partners must use the endorsed CVA Minimum Requirements Checklist developed by Ethiopia CWG (Please see Annex 2).

Budget Considerations

11. Budget
 - a. Activation of funding: The HFU provides a written response to the partner within 48 hours of the partner's request, approving or rejecting the use of the pre-positioned funding, including any caveats and conditions, including the amount of funding to be deployed which may be all or part of the amount pre-positioned.
 - b. The initial budget proposal may include the entire direct cost under category G. General operating and other direct costs, along with the corresponding PSC.
 - c. Within 20 working days of the HFU approval of the 48-hour response, the original budget proposal shall be modified in GMS to reflect the budget lines under the relevant budget categories as per the EHF Budget Preparation Guidelines (See Annex 4).
 - d. The amount of the pre-positioned funding that is not utilized by the end of a project period will be refunded. In consultation with OCHA, a fair and reasonable cost related to the administration of the grant may be recognized, even when activities are not carried out.

Monitoring and Risk Management

12. Monitoring: The EHF encourages the use of participatory approaches, involving IDPs and affected communities in needs assessment, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.
13. Reporting: A Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) report to be included in the monitoring and reporting mechanism for projects with provision of cash and in-kind, among other oversight and monitoring tools that partner will apply.
14. PSEA: If working with sub-IPs, main/lead partner should ensure appropriate training and guidance is available to sub-IP staff and that monitoring and reporting mechanisms of sub-IP implementation also include PSEA aspects.

Section 6: Process and Timeline

6.1 Allocation Strategy Development Process

Under the direction of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), OCHA HFU conducted prioritization process based on consultation with the Clusters and the OCHA sub-offices, as well as review of recent data and information. Due to the critical and unpredictable situation in Amhara, the HC decided to endorse the allocation strategy paper on 19 October 2023.

6.2 Allocation Timeline			
Steps	Start Date	End Date	Responsible body
Step 1. Submission of project proposal(s)	23 October	29 October	Partners
Step 2. Technical and financial review	30 October	5 November	OCHA HFU and Partners
Step 3. Grant Agreement and Disbursement	6 November	18 November	Partners, OCHA HFU and HC
Section 7: HFU Contacts and Complaints			
7.1 Key Contacts - OCHA Head of Office: Michel Saad (michel.saad@un.org) - OCHA Humanitarian Financing Unit (HFU)/Fund Manager: Laksmi Noviera (noviera@un.org)			
7.2 Complaints and Feedback Mechanism EHF stakeholders with insufficiently addressed concerns or complaints regarding EHF processes or decisions can contact the OCHA Head of Office (michel.saad@un.org) or write to feedback-ehf@un.org with these concerns. Complaints will be compiled, reviewed, and raised with the HC, who will then take a decision on necessary action(s). The HC will share with the Advisory Board any such concerns or complaints and actions taken thereof. The complaints will be handled in a confidential manner.			
7.3 Technical Support - Proposal: Yeshambel K. Akele (akele@un.org) - Budget: Wai Wai Moe (moe2@un.org) - GMS Technical Support: Nahimi Feyissa (Nahimi.feyissa@un.org)			
Section 8: List of Annexes			
Annex 1: Annex 1: 2023 EHF Operational Manual (https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-humanitarian-fund-operational-manual-2023)			
Annex 2: CVA Minimum Requirements Checklist (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TOS3Zmfoa9KK0IVc8_r11Ku20WlcD6dO/view?usp=sharing)			
Annex 3: OCHA Sub-Office and Cluster Contact Details in Amhara 1. OCHA Sub-office: Auwal Abubakar (abubakar7@un.org) and Zinash Diresse (Zinash.diresse@un.org) 2. Amhara Sub-National Cluster Coordinator a. Education: Atinkut Yalew (ayalew@unicef.org) b. ESNFI: Peter Cawley (pcawley@ion.int) and Yodit Mulugeta (mulugeta@iom.int) c. Health: Foday Kamara (kamaraf@who.int) d. Nutrition: Frezer Dulume (fdulume@unicef.org) e. Protection: Keuwa Leon Doumun (doumun@unhcr.org) f. WASH: Selamawit Yetemegn (syetemegn@unicef.org)			