Questions and Answers on the 2024 UHF First Standard Allocation

ELIGIBILITY/RISK-LEVEL/OPERATIONAL MODALITIES

Q1. Can an eligible partner submit two or more project proposals under this allocation?

*A: No. Under this allocation, eligible UHF partners may submit **only one project proposal** for direct funding.*

Q2: Can an eligible partner receive a direct grant and sub-grant(s) at the same time under this allocation?

*A: Yes, while each eligible partner can submit only **one project proposal for direct funding**, the same partner can be included as a sub-partner of projects led by other eligible partners. However, partners should be aware of the **absorption capacity caps** for the combined number and budgets of simultaneous UHF grants (including sub-grants) set based on their risk level (see Section 6 of the Allocation Strategy).*

Q3: Can an ineligible/non-assessed partner receive more than one sub-grant from eligible UHF partners?

A: Yes. However, partners should be aware of the absorption capacity caps for the combined number and budgets of simultaneous UHF grants (including sub-grants) set based on their risk level (see Section 6 of the Allocation Strategy). High-risk partners absorption caps are applied to ineligible/non-assessed partners.

Q4: How can partners check their risk level if they don't know it?

A: Eligible UHF partners, if unaware of their risk level, should write to Roman Oleksiienko (roman.oleksiienko@un.org) and Lilian Nduta Githungo (nduta@un.org) of the UHF compliance team to confirm their risk level.

CLUSTER/AOR/CWG CONSULTATIONS

Q5. Should eligible partners consult the main cluster only or all relevant ones?

*A: All eligible partners planning to submit a project proposal under this allocation should consult the Clusters/Cash Working Group Coordinators of all sectoral components of their planned projects prior to the project proposal submission. **Partners should seek relevant cluster/Cash WG guidance on the standard HNRP activities to be implemented under each multi-sector and single-cluster cluster priority** (e.g. standard kit contents, MPCA/voucher values, where and how to implement in-kind versus cash assistance, etc.). **Partners who have not notified relevant Clusters may not be eligible for funding**.*

Q6. Can a project cover more than one location?

A: Yes. However, all project locations should be in line with cluster priorities listed under "Cluster Priorities Matrix" (Annex 3 of the allocation strategy). Only submissions by partners with demonstrated operational presence/access in the areas prioritized by clusters will be considered at the Strategic-Technical Review Stage.

Q7. Can a project cover more than one thematic priority of this allocation?

*A: The allocation pursues the following **three thematic priorities**, targeting the most vulnerable people in locations identified with the greatest need of assistance:*

1. *Last-mile delivery of critical humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach areas closest to the frontline (30 km) and Russian border (20 km).*
2. *Multi-sectoral and critical single-sector assistance in the raions of high intersectoral needs in the eastern, southern and northern oblasts.*
3. *Coordinated multi-sectoral assistance to support vulnerable IDPs in prioritized collective sites (note: no single-sector interventions will be allowed under this priority).*

*A project can cover one or more of these thematic priorities. **Partners are requested to clearly identify which thematic priority/-ies they are pursuing in Section 2.6 "Link to Allocation Strategy" of their project proposal.***

Correct example: Eligible partner can submit one project proposal including activities under two thematic priorities: last-mile delivery of critical humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach areas closest to the frontline (30 km) and Russian border (20 km) (thematic priority 1); and multi-sectoral and critical single-sector assistance in the raions of high intersectoral needs in the eastern, southern and northern oblasts (thematic priority 2).

Q8. Can a project cover more than one cluster priority listed in Annex 3?

*Yes. A project may cover one or more of the cluster priorities listed in the Excel file "Cluster Priorities Matrix" (Annex 3 of the allocation strategy). However, partners should stick to the rule that **unlinked cluster priorities from different clusters should not be selected under one thematic priority** as this will lead to artificial multi-sectoral programming without meaningful complimentary intervention. Instead, **partners planning multi-sectoral programming should choose one or more of multi-sectoral priorities** identified in Annex 3.*

Correct example: PHC service delivery and Emergency preparedness & response are both single-sector priorities under the Health cluster, and including them together in the project proposal aiming at the thematic priority 1 or 2 would be in line with the allocation strategy.

Incorrect example: Protection – GP priority Community-based protection activities, supporting CSOs to deliver protection and child protection services and promote social cohesion and Health priority PHC service delivery are single-sector priorities of two different clusters. Thus, they should not be included under one project proposal. Instead, partners should consider implementing one of more of the multi-sectoral priorities including both Protection – GP and Health clusters: Integrated primary health care and protection / GBV assistance for frontline communities, rural and hard to reach areas; and/or Enhancing access to trauma and rehabilitation care after exposure to violence, land mines and other explosive remnants of war.

If a project selects a multi-sectoral priority under one thematic priority and a single-sector priority under another thematic priority, this is acceptable.

Correct example: One project proposal with PHC service delivery (single-sector health priority) for thematic priority 1 (front-line assistance) and Restoration of water towers (boreholes) to strengthen the agricultural sector in affected areas (FSL/WASH multi-sector priority) for thematic priority 2 (assistance to the area of intersectoral needs).

Submission of one or more of multi-cluster priorities and complementary single-sector priorities (of one of the sectors included in the selected multi-sector priority/-ies) under one thematic priority is also acceptable.

Correct example: A project pursuing thematic priority 1 Last-mile delivery of critical humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach areas closest to the frontline (30 km) and Russian border (20 km) including both Integrated primary health care and protection / GBV assistance for frontline communities, rural and hard to reach areas (health/protection multi-sector priority) and complementary Community-based child protection activities, supporting CSOs to deliver child protection services and promote social cohesion (Child Protection AOR single-sector priority) targeting the same communities.

Incorrect example: A project pursing thematic priority 2 Multi-sectoral and critical single-sector assistance in the raions of high intersectoral needs in the eastern, southern and northern oblasts including Strengthening Healthcare Facilities through IPC and WASH Improvements (health/WASH multi-sector priority) and Enable access to quality education services for

displaced, non-displaced and returnee children, considering gender, age, and inclusivity approaches (unrelated education single-sector priority).

Bottom line: _All interventions under each thematic priority should be planned as integrated, complementary programming; they should not be two unrelated/unlinked interventions running in parallel put on the paper appearing to be "multi-sector" programming._

Partners planning to include multiple thematic priorities and/or more than one multi-sector or single-sector priorities in their proposals and not sure of the above should consult relevant cluster/Cash WG coordinators and OCHA HFU.

Q9. Can MPCA be added to other cluster priorities under the same thematic priority?
A: Yes. However, MPCA should be designed as part of a complementary package of assistance under the chosen priority, as long as both the cluster(s) in concern and CWG agree and the partner consults them both to ensure coherent, deduplicated programming.

PRIORITIZATION AND EXPECTED IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Q10. Is there any prioritization of multi-cluster projects over single-cluster projects?
A: Multi-sector projects are not prioritized over single-sector projects, nor vice versa, under this allocation. Both meaningful multi-sector projects and single-sector projects that are in line with the allocation strategy will be prioritized, while projects that are not aligned with the allocation strategy, e.g. proposals pursuing single-sector interventions under the third thematic priority in the centre/west, "multi-sector" proposals that include incoherent, unlinked sectoral activities (different locations, those not part of the multi-sectoral priorities listed in the allocation strategy, etc.), etc., will be screened out/deprioritized.

Q11. When is the expected project start date?
A: The earliest project start date is the date of the budget clearance of the project, which is expected in mid-February or later. Disbursement of the first tranche of approved grants is expected within 10 working days following the OCHA Executive Office signature, in early March or later.

Q12. What is the maximum project duration under this allocation?
A: Under this allocation, partners are able to submit a project proposal with a duration of up to 12 months.

Q13: What are the minimum criteria to be met / documents to be submitted with the project proposal?

A: Partners should make sure that the total project budget is equal to or under the maximum project budget as set in the UHF Operational Modalities for the specific partner risk level (see Section 6 of the allocation strategy). For Simplified Capacity Assessment partners, the maximum project budget is US$250,000.

Partners must submit under the Documents tab of the project proposal the following documents:
- *Sub-budgets of all sub-implementing partners (including those to be determined later);*
- *BoQs for lumpsum budget lines and budget lines over US$10,000; and*
- *Cluster consultation e-mails.*