



UNFPA

Humanitarian Action Thematic Fund

UNFPA'S HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP

UNFPA is uniquely positioned to provide inclusive and integrated services for sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence prevention and response, and increasingly mental health and psychosocial support. Working across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus to address protracted conflicts, natural disasters and the climate crisis, UNFPA will strengthen its response to the needs of affected people, including young people, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups. Doing so is vital to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, which cannot be achieved unless the world unites to end preventable maternal deaths, unmet need for family planning, and gender-based violence and harmful practices.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Responding to UNFPA's annual global appeal, the Humanitarian Action Thematic Fund (HTF) was launched in 2018 to provide flexible and multi-year funding, including greater opportunities for "bridge" funding while awaiting dedicated donor co-financing. The HTF supports activities under response, preparedness, and the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

The HTF provides contributions to flexibly respond to UNFPA's appeals in different contexts, greatly reducing the transaction costs associated with individual management of agreements and allowing UNFPA to provide pre-financed rapid response to emergencies.

The HTF presents a unique opportunity for current donors to strengthen UNFPA's humanitarian work as well as for new contributors to engage by participating in a pooled arrangement that provides the potential to achieve significant results. In the spirit of the Grand Bargain, donors are able to increase humanitarian multi-year planning and funding, provide more flexible funding, reduce transaction costs, and harmonize and simplify reporting requirements, while still retaining visibility for their contributions in helping women and girls in emergencies. This funding to a larger pooled modality is designed to accelerate gains and achieve UNFPA Strategic Plan results.

The pooled thematic funding modality presents significant added value to UNFPA's humanitarian response:

- Pooling allows for tailored resources and response to underfunded countries and emergencies, thus further enhancing strategic prioritization, coherence, and coordination.
- Flexibility to respond to unforeseen and emerging threats (similar to allocation of funds to Ebola response and other outbreaks).
- Increased stability for longer-term programming and administration, ensuring humanitarian response is embedded into institutional strategic decisions.
- Strengthened quality assurance over country office proposals ensuring well designed programme implementation, robust monitoring, and reliable programme reporting.
- Reduced grant-specific administration costs and reporting requirements, allowing for efficiency gains.

The pooled thematic funding modality also presents significant added benefits to donors by supporting collaborative multi-year funding and planning and providing funding to a modality that will accelerate gains and achieve results. Benefits include:

- Support to UNFPA for underfunded humanitarian situations
- Pooling to de-risk investment
- Higher value in terms of impact for individual contributions
- Increased quality assurance mechanisms
- Attractive 'entry point' for newer or smaller contributors
- Lower transaction costs compared to managing individual agreement(s)
- Reduced indirect cost rate (7% in lieu of 8%)
- Harmonized and simplified reporting requirements

FUNDING ADMINISTRATION & REPORTING

All contributions to the HTF are pooled with other funds, and activities financed from the HTF are administered in accordance with UNFPA's applicable Financial Regulations and Rules, policies and procedures. HTF contributions are subject to a cost recovery charge of 7 percent for indirect costs incurred by UNFPA. All direct costs of implementation, including the costs of implementing partners/agencies, are borne by the HTF. In accordance with UNFPA's policies and procedures UNFPA submits to the donors:

- Multi-donor Annual Progress Report made publicly available and comprised of narrative and interim financial progress reports. Beyond formal reporting, UNFPA also engages to keep donors informed of key issues and problems as appropriate.
- A multi-donor Annual Financial Statement certified by the UNFPA Division of Management Services, to be submitted no later than 30 June each year.

An annual partnership meeting with contributing donors, strategic implementing partners and stakeholders will be held. A dedicated website will also include information on contributions received and allocated, key results and success stories, information management and advocacy tools.

QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please write to:

Oliver Buder, Head of Unit, Financing and Operations Unit, Humanitarian Office: buder@unfpa.org

Andrew Billo, Humanitarian Financing and Partnerships Specialist, Resource Mobilization Branch: billo@unfpa.org.

