At a glance

The Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) is a multi-donor Country Based Pooled Fund (CBPF) established in 2014 following the UN Security Council Resolutions 2139 and 2165 in view of the magnitude and complexity of the Syria crisis.

The SCHF enables humanitarian partners, particularly Syrian organisations to expand and support the delivery of humanitarian assistance across border and conflict lines. The SCHF supports projects and activities in line with the Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the Fund’s Operational Manual.

The main objective of the SCHF is to provide predictable, timely and consistent resources to partners thereby expanding the delivery of humanitarian assistance to support life-saving and life sustaining activities, focusing on most urgent needs and filling critical gaps. In doing so, the SCHF seeks to improve the relevance and coherence of humanitarian response by strategically funding underfunded priorities and underserved areas as identified in the HRP framework.

Cross-border humanitarian assistance

Previously known as the Turkey Humanitarian Fund for Syria (THF), the Fund changed its name in 2019 to better capture the nature of the Fund’s activities: to provide cross-border assistance into Syria. The Fund’s scope and objective remain unchanged.

In 2020, the Fund has received $155 million from 15 donors and allocated $185.9 million. This enabled the SCHF to address some of the most critical and urgent needs in northwest Syria. All contributions are reported on the SCHF public online platform: http://gms.unocha.org/bi

Under the leadership of the Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator (DRHC), the Fund’s priorities for standard allocations are decided in consultation with the SCHF Advisory Board and clusters. In emergency situations, the DRHC decides in consultation with the AB and the cluster coordinators on the main priorities for a reserve allocation, based on assessments and operational readiness.

Invest in humanity

The SCHF is an opportunity for donors to pool their contributions to deliver a stronger and more coherent response in northwest Syria through embodying the following principles:

- **Inclusiveness:** Under the leadership of the DRHC, a wide range of partners jointly assess and prioritise the most urgent needs through an inclusive and transparent process of governance, programming, and engagement.

- **Flexibility:** The SCHF supports the delivery of an agile response in a fluid and rapidly changing context, allowing partners to respond to sudden onset emergencies through the most appropriate modalities. Including the top-up

- **Timeliness:** To ensure efficient response on the ground, SCHF ensures timely allocation and disbursements of funds under its standard and reserve allocations.

- **Efficiency:** The SCHF employs effective disbursement mechanisms and minimises transaction costs through scale, prioritisation, coverage, and efficient management compliant with the global operational.

- **Accountability and Risk Management:** The SCHF ensures projects have a clear strategy to promote the participation of affected people and manages the risk of its partners through effective monitoring of partner capacity and performance.
2020 key highlights for the SCHF

- Allocated $185.9 million in 2020 and considered as the largest CBPF globally
- Received $155 million in contributions from 15 donors
- Responded to needs arising from large-scale displacement in early 2020, supported essential basic services, facilitation of access through road rehabilitation and urgent needs related to COVID-19 and winterisation
- 204 current projects funded across 10 clusters
- 56 per cent of allocation funds are directed to national NGOs, 28 per cent to UN agencies, 11 per cent to INGOs, and 5 per cent to the Red Crescent
- Allocated $38.0 million to support COVID-19 response (COVID-19 BI platform)
- Gender remain a key programming consideration, with an estimated 980,000 women targeted under various projects
- 23 per cent of projects funded utilised Cash Transfer Programming modality, totalling $15.7 million

ABOUT CBPFs

There are currently 18 active CBPFs globally. In 2020, they received more than $863 million to enable humanitarian partners to deliver life-saving assistance for millions of people affected by natural disasters and armed conflicts. Following the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, the UN Secretary-General stressed the critical role of CBPFs, and called on donors to increase the proportion of HRP funding channelled through CBPFs to 15 per cent.

How can you help?

In 2020, the Syria HRP sought $3.4 billion to provide life-saving assistance for 9.8 million people.

Donors are urged to contribute to the SCHF and are invited to contact: ocha.donor.relations@un.org

Individuals can also support the SCHF by donating via https://bit.ly/3bdKuve

For more information about humanitarian operations in northwest Syria please contact: lebeux@un.org