

WFP: Second session on Project Planning and Prioritization

ii) an invitation to Member States to present their views on funding and prioritization approaches

SLIDE 1 – A donor perspective

This presentation is primarily about humanitarian needs and humanitarian funding

It doesn't necessarily represent the views of all donors

We ask and attempt to answer three questions:

Question 1: Why do some donors have dedicated humanitarian funding lines?

Governments (including LDCs) want to invest the resources available in sustainable development through long-term programmes in health, education, agriculture and infrastructure.

Against this, the primary reason for having dedicated humanitarian budget allocations is to **ensure that some resources are available when emergencies arise.**

Examples include:

- the European Commission's Humanitarian budget lines managed by DG ECHO;
- USAID's Title II emergency food aid program; and
- modalities such as CERF (Central Emergency Response Fund) and country specific UN Trust Funds.

A second reason for having dedicated humanitarian funds/modalities is to have **procedures that speed up their release:**

SLIDE 2 – Differences between humanitarian and development funding

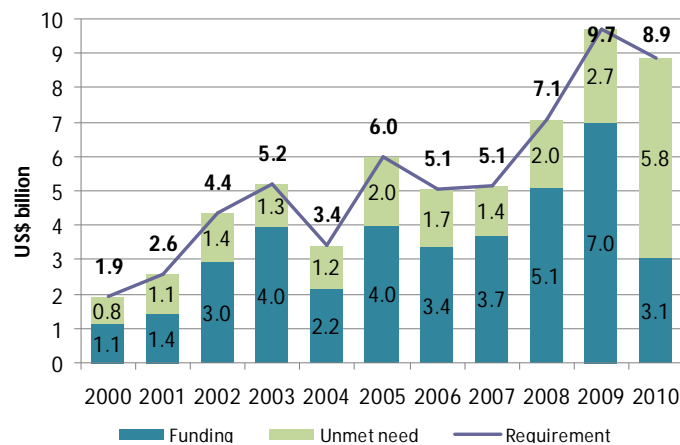
Humanitarian funds in response to emergencies	Development funds to assist long term development
Used according to humanitarian principles (neutrality, impartiality etc.)	Used according to Paris/Accra principles (harmonization, government ownership, etc)
Have lighter pre-release appraisal criteria based on immediate needs assessments	Have more detailed appraisal criteria within a broader cooperation framework (national plans, UNDAF, One UN etc.)
Have faster initial disbursement and time-expedient exemptions from normal competitive processes (e.g. calls for proposals, tenders etc)	Have slower initial disbursement and use of normal competitive processes.
Are programmed shorter-term (often single transfer).	Are programmed longer-term (often scheduled multiple transfers over 3-5 years)

For donors who have distinct humanitarian funds the ability to justify separate, accelerated and streamlined procedures depends on making and safeguarding a clear distinction between humanitarian and development assistance. Humanitarian funds cannot simply be used for development, or *vice versa*.

Question 2: Why do we need prioritization?

Because in spite of efforts to mobilise resources humanitarian are (nearly) always greater than the resources available to meet them

SLIDE 3 – Requirements, funding and unmet needs



SLIDE 4 – WFP Programme of Work vs. Income

Between 2006 and 2010 the proportion of PoW funded fell from 90% to 56%

SLIDE 5 – Humanitarian and total ODA

Humanitarian aid is a small proportion of total development funding – about 10% (OECD/ DAC) – and therefore ‘precious’.

But note that:

- Most humanitarian aid is spent in conflict-affected countries;
- Humanitarian funds represent a large proportion of aid in some countries

Question 3: What is meant by prioritization?

SLIDE 6 – Prioritisation means, simply, focusing available humanitarian financial resources on most acute needs, saving lives and livelihoods.

For WFP this means most acute hunger, most time-critical response and where food assistance is a priority (the corollary being less acute needs, less time-critical and where food assistance is a lower priority compared to other humanitarian needs such as water, shelter, medical assistance).

It means doing the greatest amount of good with the funds available.

It means a transparent presentation of needs. It does not mean denying the existence of less acute, less time-critical needs.

We recognise this is easier said than done, especially in contexts where acute needs are bound up with chronic ones, but still necessary. It is needed for accountability reasons; we need to understand how it is done.

The crucial point is that WFP's categories do not coincide neatly within the boundaries of what humanitarian donors consider to be "humanitarian". Indeed, even within WFP's definition of emergency / recovery operations, there are some things that some donors don't consider a being strictly humanitarian. Other things are borderline and therefore of a lower priority in terms of our short-term life-saving objectives.

SLIDE 7 – Matching funding to activities

(discuss the graphic)

Better discipline that WFP is already implementing in use of programme categories is a significant contribution but we would also propose:

- On the basis of programme categories giving a clearer presentation of the PoW – especially by distinguishing humanitarian from developmental (including prevention) activities the needs of which can perhaps better be met through long-term developmental programming.
- Report on SRAC decision-making in a transparent and objective manner; and
- Build prioritisation into programme designs (especially PRROs), including as a tool to manage the risk that an operation is not fully funded and ensure that the resources that are available are focused on the most acute, life-saving needs.

To assist this we need to ensure rigorous common needs assessments involving differentiation between:

- immediate needs (emergencies such as floods, earthquake etc) and protracted needs (situations of conflict, failed states)
- type of needs (children, lactating mothers, etc)
- vulnerable groups, as a result of poverty (chronic hunger) and as a result of crisis.

In conclusion:

- We recognise the need for better join-up between humanitarian, recovery and development phases especially in chronic vulnerability contexts.
- A wider discussion on the funding of conflict contexts and protracted crises should be part of the humanitarian discussion taking place in Geneva (IASC, OCHA, etc), with WFP being part of it.

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