

2012 Common Humanitarian Fund for South Sudan

CHF Reserve Application Template

For further CHF information please visit <http://unocha.org/south-sudan/financing/common-humanitarian-fund>
or contact the CHF Technical Secretariat CHFsouthsudan@un.org

Note:

This application shall be submitted to the cluster coordinator and co-coordinator for the relevant cluster with copy to the CHF Technical Secretariat.

If the project is not already in the CAP a project sheet must also be prepared and submitted into OPS.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| CHF Reserve No. | |
| Date Received: | |
| CAP Project | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Focal point: | |

To be filled in by the CHF Technical Secretariat

| CHF Reserve Grant Request Summary | |
|---|--|
| Requesting Organisation: | Mercy Corps |
| Project Title: | Emergency Assistance to Vulnerable Communities in Agok. |
| CAP Project Code (if CAP project): | SSD-12/A/51433/R |
| CAP Cluster/Sector: | Food Security |
| Geographic areas of implementation (list state, county and payam): | Abyei Area |
| Total project budget: | 435,680.00 USD |
| Amount requested from CHF Reserve: | |
| Project Duration (indicate number of months, starting date will be Allocation approval date): | 6 months (1 st July to 31 st December 2012) |
| Total number of beneficiaries targeted by the CHF Reserve grant request (disaggregated by sex/age): | 3,750 households (26,250 individuals) |
| Implementing partners (include those that will benefit/ sub-grant from CHF funding): | N/A |
| Project Contact Details <i>(Provide names, phone numbers, and emails of head of your organization, and the project focal person)</i> | Amanuel Dibaba Deputy Country Director +211 (0) 955 315156 adibaba@ss.mercycorps.org |

A. Humanitarian Context (Context Analysis)

- In approximately 1,000 words briefly describe the humanitarian situation in the specific region/area where CHF Reserve activities are planned for with reference to assessments and key data, including the number and type of the affected population¹.
- Also explain relation to the work of other partners in the area.

In Abyei Area south of River Kiir, more than 100,000 IDPs continue to live scattered in different settlements while a few have moved as far as Warrap, the neighbouring State. Since May 2011, IDPs have lost two agricultural planting seasons and, as a result, are reliant on food aid from WFP. The vulnerability of the host communities has also increased as they shoulder the extra burden imposed on them by IDPs. Although WFP provides a family ration, this does not provide the equivalent to an adequate basic food basket. As a result, poor households rely on the market for a high proportion of their basic food requirements. According to CFSAM 2012, markets were the main source of sorghum for 75 percent of the household needs in the lean season. Anet Market is currently the only market able to provide basic food stuffs in the Abyei Area. Whilst it currently remains a vibrant place of commerce, the border closure between Sudan and South Sudan has resulted in trading restrictions for goods from Sudan through Northern Bahr El Ghazal and a sharp increase in the price of basic food stuffs. In Abyei Area, the price of basic food basket items and basic non-food items has risen by an average of 44% from April to May, with the price of sorghum rising by 73%. With limited agricultural production, the restricted movement of goods from Sudan, and expected poor road conditions at the peak of the rainy season, the situation is likely to deteriorate greatly. The need for immediate intervention to address the situation is therefore vital.

While other partners are working to address the food and non-food needs of the conflict affected population, Mercy Corps will focus specifically on meeting the gap in household food security among IDPs and the vulnerable host community. Mercy Corps proposes, through this intervention, to support the humanitarian response by providing seeds and tools, both for the dry and rainy season cultivation. Restoring the ability of vulnerable households to produce food will avert hunger and malnutrition and empower households to depend on their own production rather than relief handouts. The horticulture activities in particular will assist households to diversify their diet and income. The restocking program will provide vulnerable households with an opportunity to regain basic assets which will assist them in rebuilding their livelihoods and their resilience to shock.

B. Grant Request Justification

- In approximately 500 words describe why CHF Reserve funding is sought for this project, and why this particular activity is important. Explain why the activity is time critical and need rapid funding through the CHF Reserve.
- Confirm that your organization's internal reserves or other donor funds are not immediately available and/or appropriate to fund the proposed activities. Please provide information on which donors or what other funding sources have been approached.
- Briefly describe the value added by your organization
- Describe why this activity was not funded through the CHF standard allocation process, and what has changed since that process was completed to make this project emerge as a priority.

Mercy Corps' proposed intervention is important for the Abyei Area as it will address the current situation of severe food insecurity. The situation will be effectively addressed through the provision of mainly late season crops for cultivation including sorghum (short duration) and groundnuts, and the provision of appropriate tools for the promotion of dry season cultivation of vegetables using treadle pumps for irrigation. The program will also promote restocking, mainly for female-headed households, through the provision of small ruminants, such as goats. The program streamlines resilience building into a relief intervention and creates a firm foundation for sustainable food and livelihoods security which is in line with the cluster priorities. The loss of the 2011 and early 2012 planting seasons coupled with limited support for agriculture production will result in extended food insecurity which will continue and most likely worsen through the harvesting season of 2013. Therefore there is a need to curb this trend through assisting vulnerable communities with the production means to jump-start household food production.

Mercy Corps is extensively involved in food security and livelihoods programming targeting returnees, IDPs and vulnerable host communities. With funding from ECHO, Mercy Corps is currently implementing a food security and livelihoods program in Agok (Abyei Area) as well as in Twic County (Warrap State). The ECHO funded program, which will come to an end June 2012, has reached a combination of 2,500 IDPs, returnees and vulnerable households through a cash based intervention and the provision of seeds and tools.

With major success registered from the ECHO-funded program, and further needs identified during implementation, Mercy Corps has been in touch with ECHO for follow-up funding. However, such funds will not be immediately available. This lack of alternative funding and the impending loss of the entire planting season highlights the time critical nature of this intervention and the need for CHF Reserve funding. The proposed project will enable Mercy Corps to expand its food security activities and provide emergency assistance to the vulnerable population to engage in food production in order to avert the potential loss of the entire planting season and alleviate the potential results of an extended hunger gap.

Through this ECHO funded program and other programmes in the region, Mercy Corps has gained considerable experience and has established a strong network with existing food security and livelihoods actors and stakeholders.

¹ To the extent possible reference needs assessment findings and include key data such as mortality and morbidity rates and nutritional status, and how the data differs among specific groups and/or geographic regions. Refer situation/data/indicators to national and/or global standards.

Mercy Corps will leverage its existing partnership and network in order to efficiently execute the proposed CHF project. Throughout the implementation of the ECHO-funded program, Mercy Corps has maintained an outstanding reputation and has gained the trust of the beneficiary communities. The program has also enlisted the support of local authorities and generated considerable interest and participation from the community. Mercy Corps will use its existing track record to successfully implement the emergency food security programs.

The Abyei Area, which suffers from limited humanitarian operations resulting from a fragile security situation, was not listed for funding through the CHF standard allocation process. As a result, the area is currently marginalized and deprived of much needed humanitarian assistance. With relative security and the gradual settlement of IDPs either south or north of the River Kiir, the need to assist returning IDPs with alternatives for food production remains crucial. As a result this project is important for the Abyei Area as it kick-starts household food security and combats the extended hunger gap and malnutrition.

C. Project Description

i) Purpose of the Grant

In approximately 500 words, briefly describe how CHF funding will be used to support core humanitarian activities

Mercy Corps' proposed program will effectively support core humanitarian activities by addressing the food security needs of vulnerable IDPs and ensuring households' ability to reengage in food production. The displaced population have lost both critical productive time and all their productive assets. The program will therefore target households who have lost all their productive assets (tools, seeds, etc.) and are experiencing distress associated with limited food production and availability. The program will target households that have a higher food aid dependency ratio to meet their food basket.

By providing seeds and tools, the program will rebuild production capacity at household level and curb food insecurity and negative coping mechanisms. With increased production of staple foods and vegetables, vulnerable households will gradually shift from depending on food aid to their own production. Vegetable production will provide an income source with which to purchase non-food items from the market. Through the restocking component of the program, beneficiaries will improve their livelihoods with greater sources of income and nutrition.

With funding from ECHO, Mercy Corps has supported 2500 at-risk households; 1750 vulnerable households under cash based interventions (750 direct cash transfer and 1000 households through cash for work) and 750 households with seeds and tools alone. In the proposed program, vulnerable households that benefited from monthly cash transfer (750) will be provided with two goats while able bodied beneficiaries and households that participated in cash for work will benefit from group vegetable gardens (1000 households). In addition, 2000 new households will be selected for late season planting and will be provided with seeds and tools (using Mercy Corps' successful voucher approach) in areas north and south of the Kiir River. A total of 3,750 households (26,250 individuals) will therefore benefit from the program.

Mercy Corps will harness its vast experience in implementing food security programming both in South Sudan (currently in NBeG, Agok and Unity) and globally through the proposed program. The project will enable Mercy Corps to expand similar humanitarian assistance to IDPs in Agok and those transitioning north of River Kiir while building resilience among vulnerable households receiving ruminants. The program will enhance household production potential, and boost household income and nutrition. This will allow for a shortened hunger gap which will reduce the food aid dependence ratio and the adoption of negative coping mechanisms.

ii) Objective

The objective should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound.

To improve access to food for vulnerable communities in Abyei area

iii) Proposed Activities

List the main activities to be implemented with CHF Reserve funding. State the exact location of the operation (provide map if relevant). As much as possible link activities to the exact location of the operation and the corresponding number of direct beneficiaries.

Activity 1: Beneficiary Selection & Registration

Mercy Corps will jointly identify beneficiaries of the seeds and tools voucher activity with local government officials, community leaders and NGOs implementing food security and livelihood activities in Abyei area (in locations both South and north of the river Kiir). This will ensure coordinated participation and avoid duplication. The local administration and SSRRC will be asked to assist in facilitating this process in order to increase transparency and ensure ongoing effective communication with local leaders. Local authority involvement is important to maintain transparency and to effectively communicate to the community that registration does not guarantee participation unless the vulnerability criteria are met. The program will target 3,750 households of these only 2,000 will be new beneficiaries.

| | | |
|---|---|---------------|
| <p>Activity 2: Seeds and Tools Voucher</p> <p>The 2000 households all of whom will be from Abyei are settlements south and north of the river Kiir will receive vouchers for agricultural inputs so as to assist in ensuring their own food security in 2012. As opposed to free distribution of inputs, input vouchers will be organized to bring vendors and farmers together to trade in agriculture inputs. The voucher system will help as a means of identifying existing vendors to work with. The vouchers form a key means of creating increased demand for the trader agricultural inputs creating a strong relationship between the client and traders. The 1750 households who have recently received seeds and tools from Mercy Corps' ECHO program will not be involved in this activity so as not to duplicate efforts. .</p> <p>Activity 3: Provide two (2) goats to vulnerable households</p> <p>Mercy Corps has worked with 750 vulnerable IDP households throughout the currently funded ECHO program with monthly cash transfers. These households will be provided with two goats, one male and one female. Mercy Corps will ensure that these goats are locally procured in order to avoid the movement of animals. The program will assist beneficiaries in Abyei area either while they are still in IDP settlements south of the river or at their village of origin if they opt to return during the program implementation.</p> <p>Activity 4: Creation of Community Garden Groups & Community Gardens</p> <p>Mercy Corps will work with participants from the current cash for work projects (1000 households) to create 10 community gardens – the number of gardens per location will be based on the number of participants in the different locations as it has been under the current cash for work programs. In the creation of community gardens, the project will take environmental factors into consideration and efforts will be made to avoid negative environmental impacts. The community gardens will make use of water stored in existing ponds and year round river (Kiir) for irrigating their fields.</p> <p>Activity 5: Distribution of Treadle Pumps & Training on Use & Maintenance</p> <p>Mercy Corps will procure treadle pumps for distribution to each group. As previous experience has shown that FAO and WFP can easily partner with Mercy Corps to provide pumps, this option will be explored. Treadle pumps will be distributed and participants will be trained on their use and maintenance.</p> <p>Activity 6: Distribution of Vegetable Seeds</p> <p>Mercy Corps will distribute common vegetable seeds (tomatoes, okra, cucumber, etc.) for dry season cultivation in the community gardens. The exact type of seeds will be determined based on consultation with the project participants.</p> | | |
| <p>iv) Cross Cutting Issues Briefly describe how cross-cutting issues are taken into consideration (i.e. gender, environment, HIV/AIDS)</p> | | |
| <p>Gender: The program will ensure equitable involvement of both men and women during implementation. Selection of beneficiaries will give equal opportunities to men and women. Identification of sites for group vegetable gardens and who benefits will take the priority needs of both men and women into consideration. Women headed households with no able-bodied family member, pregnant and lactating mothers and other women with special needs will benefit from small ruminants.</p> <p>HIV/AIDS: The program will give emphasis to supporting families with heads infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Families with Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) or households supporting OVCs will be prioritized for assistance either through vegetable gardening groups or small ruminants depending on their ability to contribute labour.</p> <p>Environment: The proposed program will address the immediate food needs of vulnerable households and enable them to cope with the hunger gap without resorting into negative coping mechanisms such as sale of charcoal and firewood which damages the environment.</p> | | |
| <p>v) Expected Outcomes List the results you expect to have at the end of the CHF grant period, and provide no more than three measurable indicators you will use to measure your achievement. Please use the <u>defined CHF Standard Output Indicators whenever possible.</u></p> <p>Result 1: Households affected by emergencies gain the capacity to cultivate in 2012; Result 2: Conflict affected families cope with hunger gap without resorting to negative coping mechanisms;</p> | | |
| | Indicator | Target |
| 1 | Number of households receiving seeds and tools | 2,000 |
| 2 | Number of households participating in vegetable gardens | 1,000 |
| 3 | Number of households receiving small ruminants | 750 |
| | | |

vi) Implementation Plan

Describe planned mechanisms for implementation of the project. Explain if it is implemented through implementing partners such as NGOs, government actors, or other outside contractors.

Mercy Corps will directly implement all the proposed activities. However, the local community, traditional leaders and government line ministries will be involved in beneficiary identification and selection. Mercy Corps will also coordinate with the Food Security and Livelihoods cluster at state and national level and share information on experience, challenges and lessons learned from the project.

An Emergency Food Security and Livelihoods manager will be hired to oversee the implementation of the proposed program. Project Officers will also be deployed to coordinate the day to day activities. Operational support for the program implementation will be provided through the Mercy Corps field office located in Agok. The country office in Juba will provide overall guidance and direction for the program implementation and assist with logistical support as required. The Juba office also serves as a link to the National Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster and provides platform for information exchange between the field team and stakeholders at the national level.

Mercy Corps will collaborate with other humanitarian actors, mainly the food security and livelihoods cluster at national and state levels, the Chamber of Commerce and NGOs working on food security and livelihoods to create synergy with existing programs. Mercy Corps will draw from experience obtained in implementing similar programs globally and utilize best practices to ensure the success of the proposed program.

vii) Monitoring Plan

Describe how you will monitor progress and achievements of the project.

The program will be monitored on daily, weekly and monthly basis by the project staff with the participation of stakeholders involved in the implementation – such as community leaders, agricultural ministry, and other food security cluster partners. The routine monitoring will focus on assessing program achievements/accomplishments versus targets, identifying issues and concerns affecting program implementation, and designing courses of action necessary to address those issues. A regular staff feedback session will be conducted monthly to analyze monitoring results and prepare action plans. Standard Monitoring tools and data collection forms have been developed for previous programs and Mercy Corps' Design Monitoring, and Evaluation Unit maintains a rich collection in the archives stored in Mercy Corps' digital library. These tools will be customized to suit the M&E and data collection needs for the proposed program. Data will be analyzed by M&E staff earmarked for the project and the results will help in making decisions on the implementation approaches of the program. Progress reports will be submitted to the FSL cluster on a quarterly basis. In addition, M&E findings such as lessons learnt and challenges encountered/solutions given will be shared with Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders involved in food security sector. Please see the Annex for the logical framework.

D. Secured funding

Please provide details of secured funds for the project from other sources. Indicate the date (month and year) when the funding was secured.

| Source/donor and date | Amount (USD) |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| | - |
| | - |
| | - |

SECTION III:

| LOGFRAME | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| CHF ref. Code: SSD-.... | Project title: Emergency Assistance to Vulnerable Communities in Agok | Organisation: <u>Mercy Corps</u> | |
| Overall Objective: Improved food security and consumption among IDPs | Indicators of progress: % increase in household food consumption score (FCS). | How indicators will be measured: Beneficiary survey (baseline and End of program evaluation) | |
| Specific Project Objective/s: Improved staple food and vegetable production. | Indicators of progress: % increase in acreage cultivated | How indicators will be measured: Beneficiary survey | Assumptions & risks: Good rainy season without displacement. |
| Results - Outputs (tangible) and Outcomes (intangible): Households affected by emergencies gain the capacity to cultivate in 2012 Vulnerable households become less dependent on food aid in 2012 | Indicators of progress: # of households who received seed/tools vouchers. # of households participating in vegetable garden # of households receiving small ruminants | How indicators will be measure Program records | Assumptions & risks: No subsequent displacement of people with relative stability, no natural calamities like floods, stable rainy season. |
| Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beneficiary Selection & Registration• Distribution of seeds and tools• Distribution of goats• Community garden groups• Distribution of treadle and training• Distribution of vegetable seeds | Means <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local chiefs, community leaders and communication sensitization.• Vendors and blacksmith; program manager• Goats locally available at affordable cost, logistic to move goats and program officer• Community land available and water sources like ponds.• Treadle pumps procured in a timely manner, training material available, source of water.• Timely procurement of assorted seeds | Source of verification <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project reports, beneficiary lists, monitoring reports and photos. | Assumptions, risks and pre-conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security stability and roads are passable• Availability of vendors and blacksmith to supply the market.• Community buy-in and group cohesion. |

| PROJECT WORK PLAN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----|-----|-----------|-----|-----|-----------|-----|------|-----------|-----|-----|------------|-----|-----|--|
| This section must include a workplan with clear indication of the specific timeline for each main activity and sub-activity (if applicable). The workplan must be outlined with reference to the quarters of the calendar year. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity | Q1 / 2012 | | | Q2 / 2012 | | | Q3 / 2012 | | | Q4 / 2012 | | | Q1. / 2013 | | | |
| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | |
| Result 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity (1.1) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beneficiary Selection & Registration | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Distribution of seeds and tools | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | |
| Distribution of goats | | | | | | | | | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| Community garden groups | | | | | | | | | X | X | | | | | | |
| Distribution of treadle pumps and training | | | | | | | | | | X | X | X | | | | |
| Distribution of vegetable seeds | | | | | | | | | | X | X | X | | | | |

*: TIMELINE FOR EACH SPECIFIC ACTIVITY MUST BE MARKED WITH AN X AND SHADED GREY 15%

CHF Reserve Grant Request Review Section – Internal

| Reviewer | | Justification/clarification/recommendations |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Function/Title: | Cluster Coordinator or co-coordinator | |
| Name: | | |
| Organisation: | | |
| Date: | | |
| Recommendation: | Grant recommended : <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | |
| Function/Title: | State-level focal point | |
| Name: | | |
| Organisation: | | |
| Date: | | |
| Recommendation: | Grant recommended : <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | |
| Function/Title: | CHF Technical Secretariat | |
| Name: | | |
| Organisation: | | |
| Date: | | |
| Recommendation: | Grant recommended : <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | |
| Function/Title: | | |
| Name: | | |
| Organisation: | | |
| Date: | | |
| Recommendation: | Grant recommended : <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | |
| Function/Title: | | |
| Name: | | |
| Organisation: | | |
| Date: | | |
| Recommendation: | Grant recommended : <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | |