

US Aid via UN free of special restrictions – seemingly. By Helen Murphy,
Devex, 27 May 2026

The OCHA exception

The Trump administration's [latest \\$1.8 billion humanitarian pledge](#) to the [United Nations](#) comes with a notable surprise: [It appears to be exempt](#) from the administration's own sweeping Promoting Human Flourishing in Foreign Assistance policy.

That policy [bars U.S. funding](#) from groups connected to abortion, gender identity, or diversity, equity, and inclusion programs. Yet [OCHA](#) says the new funding — **destined for 21 crisis-hit countries** over the next year — **comes with no such strings attached**. “No conditions have been placed on these funds, and the U.N. has not compromised on the humanitarian principles that guide our work: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence,” says OCHA spokesperson **Eri Kaneko**.

The exemption matters because, until now, it was unclear whether OCHA — increasingly the Trump administration's preferred vehicle for humanitarian aid after dismantling [USAID](#) — would have to comply with the policy or secure a difficult-to-obtain waiver.

Last month, OCHA chief **Tom Fletcher** [questioned](#) whether humanitarian agencies could accept funding tied to conditions that clash with their principles. “I lie awake at night wondering if my principles on that, and the sector's principles — and I will hold the line — but how many people will die for those principles because I'm not willing to take that money?”

For now, at least, OCHA appears to have avoided that dilemma, my colleague Elissa Miolene writes — even if nobody is quite saying how.