

US aid award to UN OCHA \$1.8 billion - confirms yesterday's "scoop." By Elissa Miolene, *Devex*, 15 May 2026

Tip to Tranche By [Elissa Miolene](#)

On Wednesday, our Senior Global Reporter Colum Lynch [scooped some breaking news](#): The U.S. was set to award at least \$1.5 billion in new funding to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, or [OCHA](#), the agency that aligns organizations responding to crises.

Yesterday, [U.S. officials confirmed the details](#). A new \$1.8 billion pledge marks **the second major funding tranche to OCHA since President Donald Trump returned** to the White House, and opens up money to three new countries previously left off the U.S. list: the Central African Republic, Lebanon, and Venezuela.

“There’s this narrative that the United States, because of the reforms that the president made early in the term, doesn’t care about the United Nations, and doesn’t care about humanitarian or lifesaving aid,” said the [U.S. State Department](#)’s foreign assistance head, **Jeremy Lewin**, who spoke at the U.N. headquarters in New York yesterday. **“Nothing can be further from the truth.”**

The U.S. will also be “rolling out a series of macro-awards” to countries that didn’t receive the OCHA funding, Lewin said, while **continuing to sign bilateral awards with other U.N. agencies** and private organizations.

It’s all a part of the country’s evolving approach to foreign assistance, which seems to continue to take shape every day. As of now, it’s not clear **whether the Trump administration’s Promoting Human Flourishing in Foreign Assistance policy** — which restricts activities that touch abortion; gender identity; and diversity, equity and inclusion — **will apply to the latest tranche of funding**, though OCHA chief **Tom Fletcher** previously told a London audience that [he wouldn’t accept the money if it did](#).

Read: [US pledges \\$1.8 billion to UN in second humanitarian tranche](#)