

**Format for Information Note of IR-EMOP Project Document-Delegation of Authority to Country Directors**

<b>TO:</b> Chris Nikoi, Regional Director, RBJ	<b>DATE: 21 March 2016</b>
<b>FROM:</b> Alberto Correia Mendes, Country Director, Swaziland	<b>PAGE 1 OF 6</b> (Information Note- 5 pages; EMOP Budget- 1 page)
<b>CC:</b> Calum Gardner, Director RMBB, Stefano Porretti, Director of Emergencies, Jim Harvey, Chief of Staff	
<p style="text-align:center"><b>IMMEDIATE RESPONSE EMERGENCY OPERATION SWAZILAND IR-EMOP 200954</b></p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>Emergency assistance to vulnerable households affected by El Niño induced drought in Swaziland</b></p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>PROJECT DOCUMENT</b></p>	

**PART 1: INFORMATION NOTE**

**NATURE OF EMERGENCY:**

**Location:**

1. The El Niño phenomenon, officially declared in March 2015, has resulted in below-average rainfall, spurring poor forecasts for crop production and food security throughout the southern Africa region and in Swaziland. To respond to the need for emergency assistance related to the drought, WFP will implement this immediate response emergency operation (IR-EMOP) in the Lubombo and Shiselweni regions of Swaziland, which include some of the most drought-affected areas in the country. Adjustments may be made to geographic targeting based on complementarity with Government and partner responses.
2. WFP currently implements two projects in all four regions of Swaziland. DEV 200422 provides on-site meals to young Orphan Vulnerable Children (OVC) to enable their access to early education and basic services at community care centres. WFP also provides targeted nutrition assessment, care and support services to malnourished people accessing treatment for HIV and TB, and pregnant and lactating women through DEV 200353, the Food by Prescription programme.

**Cause:**

3. The current agricultural season (October 2015 to April 2016) has the lowest recorded rainfall in the SADC region in the past 35 years related to El Niño conditions. Between October 2015 and February 2016, Swaziland received 42 per cent lower rainfall than the same period in the previous season, and 51 per cent lower compared to 2013/2014. The first rains allowing some agricultural activities were received only in December 2015, and were still below average. The impact

has been severe in countries which rely on rain-fed agriculture such as Swaziland and the effects will continue into 2017.

4. Swaziland has already experienced low rainfall and acute food and water shortages since early 2015. The poor 2014/15 cropping season in Swaziland disrupted a five-year average of steady progress as it was 6 percent lower than the five-year production average and 31 percent lower than the bumper harvest experienced in 2013/14.
5. As a net importer of food, Swaziland is also vulnerable to increases in food prices in the region. In January 2016, the National Maize Corporation (NMC) had to increase the official price of maize by 66 percent, due to increases in South Africa's market.
6. The precarious food security situation is also exacerbated by this year's poor economic performance of the country, forecasted significant reduction of revenues from the Southern Africa Custom Union (SACU), and the depreciation of South Africa's Rand to which the Swaziland Lilangeni is pegged.

### **Effects:**

7. The food security of a large number of Swazis has already been affected. In July 2015, the Swaziland Vulnerability Assessment report, corroborated by the Crop and Food Security Assessment (CFSAM 2015), showed that about 50,000 people were in need of food assistance at the time of the assessment, and levels of food insecurity would increase up to 200,900 people, representing 23 percent of the entire population as the lean season progressed. The Swaziland Vulnerability Assessment Committee has projected that over 300,000 people are currently affected by the drought and in need of food assistance. The severely delayed start of the agricultural season (by 30-60 days) adds evidence that yields will be extremely poor in 2015-16, and that food security will deteriorate further.
8. Preliminary results of a multi-sectoral rapid assessment of drought impact, conducted in February 2016, indicate there has been an overall decrease in the area planted in the 2015/16 agricultural season, compared to the 2014/15 season, reaching up to 80 per cent in most affected areas. It is expected this decrease will result in poor yields in the 2015/16 harvest in March, with preliminary estimates indicating a total maize production of about 33,500 mt, representing a 64 percent reduction from the 2014/2015 production. Food security conditions will worsen and remain poor, compared to the already compromised harvest of 2014/15.
9. The rapid assessment also indicates that drought has affected people's access to markets: 28 percent of households indicated that they changed the markets where they buy maize in the past six months. People attributed this change to a depletion of maize supplies in local markets, in part because households who previously had maize surpluses are now consuming rather than selling. Among the visited households, 44 percent indicated that they have to travel to purchase maize. Increased travel costs in addition to the maize price increase of 66 percent effected in January will limit access to food for vulnerable households.

10. Assessments continue to show that households are resorting to extreme coping mechanisms including reducing the amount of food they eat, borrowing food, and eating less preferred or less expensive foods when possible. In areas that experience frequent food insecurity, such as Lubombo and Shiselweni, the drought has reversed trends of improving food security over the past five years and, following last year's poor harvest, people have fewer assets left. However, other areas, such as Hhohho region, which do not normally experience dry spells, and therefore have lower coping mechanisms, are also being closely monitored.
11. Impact of the drought on nutrition for pregnant and lactating women (PLW), children under five, and people living with HIV and TB is of particular concern. Swaziland has a very high HIV prevalence: 26 percent of the population between the ages of 15-49 live with HIV. Swaziland has made gains towards providing universal access to HIV and TB treatment (DOTS). The country also recognizes the vital role of nutrition in HIV and TB treatment outcomes, and nutrition is prioritized as one of the national strategies to support adherence to treatment. Globally, there is substantial evidence showing food insecurity and poor nutrition are barriers to initiation of treatment and long-term adherence to anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and TB treatment. Malnutrition is linked to poor treatment outcomes and higher risk of mortality in people initiating treatment. The impact of the current drought in Swaziland could jeopardize investments in the provision of treatment. In partnership with the Ministry of Health, WFP is providing nutrition assessment, care and support services to malnourished people on HIV and TB treatment, and pregnant and lactating women through the Food by Prescription programme. In addition, food insecurity may increasingly place vulnerable individuals, especially women and girls, at greater risk of exposure to HIV due to the adoption of risky behaviours. In Swaziland a study found that food insecure women were 70 percent more likely to have unprotected transactional sex than food secure women.
12. Chronic malnutrition, at 26 percent nationally among children under five years, is the major nutrition concern in Swaziland. Severe acute malnutrition is lower at 2 percent and moderate acute malnutrition at 6 percent among under-fives. WFP and UN agency partners are working to monitor these populations and should new data indicate increasing acute malnutrition, WFP will include nutrition-specific interventions in the response beyond the already available integrated management of malnutrition (IMAM) services provided in government health facilities.
13. The Prime Minister of Swaziland declared a national state of emergency on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2016 and launched the government's National Emergency Response Mitigation and Adaptation Plan (NERMAP).

**Total numbers affected and in need of emergency food aid:**

14. The NERMAP estimates 300,000 people are currently in need of food assistance throughout the entire country. These estimates are based on projections by the Swaziland VAC, and take into account the continued severity of drought conditions, vulnerability during the current lean season, predictions of continued

low food production, rising food prices and impact on livelihoods such as livestock losses.

**WFP IR EMOP:**

**Justification for an immediate response, expected impact:**

15. In line with government's declaration of a state of emergency and appeal for financial and technical support from the international community, immediate life-saving assistance is needed. WFP proposes an IR-EMOP to start providing emergency food assistance in most affected areas, while a subsequent operation is being designed. Provision of food in-kind was selected for this IR-EMOP as first line of response, in keeping with the NERMAP. Cash based transfers are being discussed with the Government and considered in the longer term response, with the idea of targeting people in other vulnerable areas affected by the drought and with better access to markets and financial services.
16. The drought has disrupted a four-year trend of decreasing food insecurity. In 2015, moderate food insecurity nationally increased to 18.2 percent from a previous four-year average of 9.8 percent, and severe food insecurity increased to 5.5 percent from an average of 3 percent. According to the Swaziland VAC projections and the preliminary results of the rapid assessment, Lubombo is the most affected region, with 46 percent of people projected as food insecure. In other regions, food insecurity is projected lower, ranging between 23 to 27 percent, but all regions have pockets with high levels of food insecurity and severely affected populations. Lubombo and Shiselweni regions have the highest rates of poverty with 69 percent of the population living under the national poverty line, compared to the 63 percent nationally (SHIES 2010), limiting already vulnerable people's ability to cope with additional shocks brought on by the drought.
17. WFP assistance will complement and strengthen the ongoing Government drought response under the Deputy Prime Minister's Office and National Disaster Management Agency. Outside the IR-EMOP activities, WFP is supporting assessments (such as the rapid multi-sectoral assessment, urban and health and nutrition) and providing operational advice for better forecasting, implementation, and monitoring of the NERMAP activities. Assistance to drought-affected people will complement Government efforts for drought relief. Medium- to long-term activities to strengthen resilience and food security will be undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the NDMA and other stakeholders.

**Duration of assistance (maximum three months):**

18. The project duration will be three months (15 April to 14 July 2016) with a total budget of US\$ 680,078. A longer term response is being developed to further address the emergency needs defined in the NERMAP.

**Number of beneficiaries and location:**

19. WFP will assist 72,000 beneficiaries, or approximately 14,000 households, in the Lubombo and Shiselweni regions. Geographic targeting may be adjusted based on complementarity with food assistance activities implemented by government and other partners under the NERMAP, and upon further consideration of the preliminary results of the drought needs assessment. At the time of actual household targeting for the IR-EMOP, clients under the Food by Prescription programme who receive a household ration will not be considered to avoid overlap.

**Food basket composition and ration levels:**

20. WFP will provide a household ration of 50 kg cereals, 12.5 kg pulses and 4.5 L oil to cover 85 percent of daily energy requirements, assuming an average household size of 5 people for a period of one month. Ration sizes are based on national guidelines in the NERMAP.

**Total food aid requirements:**

**Table 2. Commodity requirements (mt)**

Commodity	Quantity (mt)
Cereals	716
Pulses	179
Oil	64
<b>Total</b>	<b>959</b>

**Mode of implementation:**

21. The government, through the NDMA and Deputy Prime Minister's Office (DPMO), will coordinate the drought response according to the NERMAP, including provision of emergency food assistance. UN agencies financial and technical assistance is coordinated through the UN Drought technical working group, chaired by WFP.
22. WFP has the capacity to plan, operate and launch emergency food assistance on the proposed scale. WFP will establish partnerships with NGOs to support food assistance implementation and monitoring. WFP already has a field presence in all drought-affected areas region through two DEV projects.
23. Geographic targeting of food distribution will be done in coordination with NDMA and other partners providing assistance through the emergency response. Household eligibility for food assistance in affected areas will be based on the food distribution targeting criteria developed by the NDMA and stakeholders. The criteria take into account household-level demographic and socioeconomic factors.
24. WFP and its cooperating partners will work with communities for the establishment of gender-balanced food management committees, and promote women's participation in leadership positions. Staff of WFP and cooperating partners will be trained in basic principles for prevention of sexual exploitation

and abuse in humanitarian assistance. A complaint mechanism will be established and it will involve women and representative of most disadvantaged groups.

## PART 2: EMOP BUDGET

Cost Components	Number of Beneficiaries <sup>1/</sup>			Value (US\$)	% of DOC	% of Total Project Costs
Food Tool	71 564	Tonnage (mt)	Rate per mt			
Cereals		716	\$390.00	\$279 102	% of Food DOC	
Pulses		179	\$650.00	\$116 292		
Oil and Fats		64	\$660.00	\$42 509		
Mixed and Blended Food		-	\$0.00	\$0		
Other		-	\$0.00	\$0		
<b>Total Food Transfers</b>		959	\$456.64	<b>\$437 903</b>		<b>77%</b>
External Transport			\$3.96	\$3 800	1%	
LTSH			\$94.09	\$90 232	16%	
ODOC Food			\$40.00	\$38 359	7%	
<b>Total Food Tool DOC</b>			<b>\$594.70</b>	<b>\$570 294</b>		<b>84%</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>71 564</b>			<b>Value (US\$)</b>	<b>DSC as % DOC</b>	
Total Direct Operating Costs (DOC)				<b>\$570 294</b>		
<b>Direct Support Cost (DSC)</b>				<b>\$65 293</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>10%</b>
Total WFP direct project costs (US\$)				<b>\$635 587</b>		
<b>Indirect Support Costs (ISC) 7%</b>				<b>\$44 491</b>		<b>7%</b>
<b>TOTAL WFP COSTS</b>				<b>\$680 078</b>		<b>100%</b>

## PART 3: EMOP APPROVAL

- 1) IRA funding is available to cover EMOP budget

Chief, RMBB: Calum Gardner, Director RMBB, Date: --/--/----

- 2) EMOP is approved

Regional Director, RBJ: Chris Nikoi, Date: --/--/----