



World Food Programme

Memorandum

To: Stefano Porretti
Director of Emergencies

Date: 31 March 2016

From: Margot van der Velden
Regional Emergency Coordinator, West
and Central Africa

Subject: RB for West and Central Africa requests fund allocation from Immediate Response Account (IRA) for Specific Preparedness Activities in Nigeria_EP-200965

PART 1: INFORMATION NOTE

RATIONALE

The Boko Haram-related conflict in North East Nigeria has caused large displacements both within Nigeria and to neighboring countries. Out of the 2.2 million persons internally displaced in Nigeria (majority in Borno state), only 8 percent resides in camps where the majority of government food assistance is being provided, albeit irregular; most of the internally displaced are in host communities and receive no or little assistance, and have been unable to cultivate for a third consecutive agricultural season (FEWSNet).

The food security and nutrition situation in the North East of Nigeria is alarming for host and displaced populations alike. The first Cadre Harmonisé (November 2015) indicated that approximately 4 million people are food insecure in the conflict-affected North-Eastern States of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa. It was estimated that some 875,000 people are facing emergency levels of food insecurity (Phases 4 and 5), mostly in Borno and Yobe States. According to the 2015 National Nutrition Survey, global acute malnutrition (GAM) among children surpasses 10 percent in Borno and Yobe states, with severe acute malnutrition observed at critical levels (above 2 percent); it should be noted, many areas of Borno were inaccessible at time of survey.

There is particular concern for the large pockets of the northeast which are currently in- or hardly accessible to government, UN, and the NGO community. Today, 22 out of the 27 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Borno State are inaccessible; and in Yobe, 5 of 17 LGAs are out of reach, but the situation is evolving quickly. There is currently little to no data available regarding the conditions of populations and infrastructure in these areas, but based on indications and intelligence, donors and partners fear there are entire communities already *in* or believed to *soon be* in a “famine-like” situation: i) transporters and traders report entire communities where there are people but which cannot be supplied due to insecurity and roadblocks (regional markets study); ii) market monitoring has seen an increase in prices due to insecurity and implications on rising transport costs, and the devaluation of the currency; iii) Boko Haram tactics have been reported to involve burning fields and grain reserves, and stealing means of production and livestock; iv) certain commercial activities and markets have been banned; and v) partner screenings in some LGAs and IDP sites have found rates of GAM significantly above the national survey.

The major obstacle to reaching these populations is access (and linked to this, detailed information about their situation). The impediments to access vary by area (e.g. the road to reach a location is insecure but the location itself is safe for actor presence), the sustainability and frequency of access,

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and also by user (e.g. a transporter may have different access compared to UN, different government services, NGOs, Red Cross). In order to be able to scale up the response, a comprehensive analysis and mapping of access, roads, food security and nutrition data, and actors must be undertaken for all affected areas.

Reaching those populations who are inaccessible and believed to be in dire situation is the immediate priority. The lack of data for these areas makes estimating this number incredibly challenging: the 2016 Food security working group Action Plan for the Northeast includes a rough estimate of some 135,000 severely food insecure persons who are inaccessible, though based on intelligence from the NGO community, this number could be vastly underestimated. In parallel, it is also critical to expand the coverage of food (and other) relief to those who are in emergency phase or higher food insecurity and who might be accessible, but who are not yet receiving regular (or any); this includes IDPs outside of camps, as well as severely vulnerable host populations.

WFP will continue to work with government and partners to support and enable efforts to enhance the quality and coherence of assistance, registration and targeting, data collection, and monitoring for the whole of the northern emergency response. By enabling movement, communications, and multi-purpose platforms (cash-based transfers, registration, data collection), all actions proposed in this Strategic Note contribute in real-time to supporting an enhanced response to the millions of IDPs and host populations whose access to food, water, sanitation, nutrition, and protection is currently impeded in northern Nigeria.

AMOUNT REQUESTED: US \$ 300,000 (incl. ISC)

DURATION OF ACTIVITY: 3 Months from 1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016

JUSTIFICATION

Following the fifth budget revision to the regional EMOP 200777, WFP added life-saving food assistance for 70,000 severely food-insecure people affected by violence in northeast Nigeria through the introduction of CBT programming together with NEMA.

In light of the humanitarian imperative and growing concern around the conditions for famine-like situation, and with the request of the Government of Nigeria to support them in reaching rural areas, it has been agreed with the Executive Director that **the WFP presence in Nigeria must be scaled up for a time bound period in order for WFP, partners, and the government to be able to meet the urgent life-saving needs. Currently the plan is to reach at least 200.000 people with CBT**

To strengthen the preparedness and readiness of WFP for the foreseen scale up and to ensure continuous analysis of the food security situation and displacement crisis, WFP aims to undertake the following activities:

1. **Access and response planning mission (USD 59,339)**

By 4 April, a WFP senior team comprising of 14 key people from Regional Bureau and Headquarters will deploy to northern Nigeria (Maiduguri, Borno) to develop the foundation for an access strategy (mapping + plan), carry out a more in depth gap analysis, and risk assessment that will together be the basis of the scale up of the overall response. The objective is to develop a comprehensive mapping drawing on all available data and intelligence to overlay: i) Humanitarian access; and ii) Food security. The team will build a prioritized access plan and come up with a 6 months action plan defining the key activities to ensure WFP rapidly and significantly scales up immediate relief in inaccessible areas and in areas presumed to be accessible (at least at times) but where food assistance is not yet being provided. Priorities are identified with

partners and counterparts on the ground in northern Nigeria, based on all available information (data, intelligence, etc).

2. Rapid assessments: (USD 86,253)

To determine where FS needs are the highest and in follow-up and to ensure implementation of the above mentioned access and 6 months response plan, WFP will continuously carry out rapid assessments in areas where food assistance has been limited so far or newly accessible areas that open up and where access can be guaranteed, where possible jointly with other agencies. This will allow WFP to develop a better understanding of situation of the populations and also appropriate response options. In order to ensure access to areas where the insecurity along the roads presents the primary challenge to accessing communities an UNHAS Helicopter is to be used to carry out those rapid (multi-sectorial) assessments and wherever appropriate also the response itself.

3. Multi-functional Cash based expert team mission to assess modalities for rural areas (USD 88,100)

Based on the response scheme and tools developed under the CBT Platform initiative WFP is organising a multi-functional expert mission to define the modalities in the rural areas which have until now been inaccessible. This team will have to design how to operationalize the access strategy (emergency Operations staff, VAM, Protection, Cash-based transfer specialists Supply chain, finance, Legal, SCOPE/IT).

4. MVAM scale up (USD 46,682)

First launched in Nigeria in January 2016, the MVAM has greatly contributed to developing a better understanding of the FS situation of displaced and host populations in Northern Nigeria, however it remains limited in its coverage, notably of rural and inaccessible LGAs. WFP can leverage the expanding partnership with Airtel for phone coverage, and increase the number of interviewed households in accessible areas and also increase mVAM to areas that have so far been inaccessible. The mVAM methodology will also be revisited, to allow to systematically capture a wider range of key data to inform the scale-up (e.g. on food availability, traders' presence of community groups, access of roads, etc.). WFP will relaunch the mVAM platform much wider and collect household food security data and food prices in remote areas to ensure close monitoring and preparedness for action. Therefore consistent and real time monitoring of key indicators will enhance the timely information on the evolving food security conditions. In order to ensure a quick scale up and more elaborate data collection, additional funds are needed to redesign the MVAM data collection tools, including translation and also the contract with Airtel will need to be adapted (see detailed budget).

The expected outcome of this IR-PREP therefore will be enhanced state of readiness and preparedness of WFP to response to the crisis in Northern Nigeria. More specifically the IRA prep will produce an updated needs assessment; an access strategy; a response plan; and a reformulated and expanded mVAM.

The Regional Emergencies Coordinator will be the fund manager for this IR-PREP.

PART 2: DETAILED BUDGET

Fund Centre:	NGCO			
Functional Area:	SOP			
Project Number:	200965			
Project Start Date:	01-Apr-16			
Project End Date:	30-Jun-16			
Duration (months):	3			
		Value US\$	% overall Budget	% of DOC
Capacity Development and Augmentation (CD&A) costs		\$0	0%	
Direct Support Costs (DSC)		\$280,374	93%	0%
Total WFP direct project costs (US\$)		\$280,374	93%	
Indirect Support Costs (ISC) 7%		\$19,626	7%	
TOTAL WFP COSTS		\$300,000	100%	