



**World Food Programme**

## Decision Memorandum

To:	Mr. Jim Harvey Chief of Staff, OED	Date: 16 November 2015
Through:	Mr. Ramiro Lopes da Silva Assistant Executive Director, OS	
	Mr. Finbarr Curran Director Budget and Programming Division, RMB	
From:	Mr. Stefano Porretti Director of Emergencies, OSE	

Subject:	Paraguay Country Office requests fund allocation for an IR-PREP for specific preparedness activities in relation to El Niño.
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### Issue

The purpose of this memorandum is to request your approval for an allocation of US\$ 36,834 to support specific preparedness activities in Paraguay in relation to El Niño.

### Background

Most climate models indicate that by the end of the year a strong El Niño phenomenon will develop in the Pacific Ocean. The intensity of this event is beginning to increase with a peak expected for the last quarter of 2015. According to different sources, this could become one of the strongest El Niño of the last 35 years.

Paraguay is a landlocked country prone to climate-related disasters. Boosted by the El Niño phenomenon, extreme climate events have caused in the past floods and drought. Heavy rainfall normally causes the Paraguay and Parana rivers to overflow. Both of them run across main cities such as a Asuncion, the Country's capital, Ciudad del Este, Encamacion and large swaths of agricultural lands.

Since 2012 WFP has been supporting the Government of Paraguay in improving its preparedness and response capacity. The National Emergency Secretariat (SEN), the Government agency responsible for emergencies, is on alert with regards to the potential negative impacts of El Niño. Upon SEN's request WFP is assisting in preparing multi-sectoral contingency plans. Based on consultations with the Government of Paraguay the CO is requesting funds for the following:

1. Simulations of the Multi-sector contingency plan: testing the contingency plan to identify gaps and weaknesses and make recommendations for improvement.
2. Establishing Long Term Agreements for food suppliers where CBT cannot be implemented in an emergency: WFP needs to improve its food procurement capacity and reduce lead times.



The duration of this project will be for 3 months (15 November 2015 to 14 February 2016).

The detailed request from the Paraguay CO and the budget for preparedness activities are attached. Budget is totalling US\$ 51,788, but we will currently allocate the US\$ 36,834 required for 2015. Remaining balance will be allocated in 2016.

#### Recommendation

It is recommended that this proposal, for an allocation of US\$ 36,834, be approved as the proposed will augment WFPs operational capacity in the region and offer resources to support preparedness in Paraguay.

Decision by the Chief of Staff, OED:

Approve: \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove: \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss with me: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

cc: Regional Bureau/Country office  
Chief RMB  
OSEP Chrono