

## 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:	Haiti Country Office requests fund allocation from the IR-PREP for emergency food security assessments in Haiti.
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### Issue

The purpose of this memorandum is to request your approval for an allocation of US\$ 135,249 to support special preparedness activities in Haiti in relation to continued drought conditions.

### Background

Haiti is the poorest country in the Americas and its economy over the last two decades has been repeatedly affected by political crises and a series of devastating natural disasters. Geographic conditions make Haiti particularly prone to recurring natural hazards and disasters of a hydro-meteorological nature.

As Haiti endures its third year of drought, it is estimated that over half a million Haitians are currently facing crisis levels of food insecurity and need immediate assistance. The 2015 main spring harvest, which accounts for over 50 percent of national annual production, fell below average with losses of up to 70 percent in some areas. The latest forecasts (CPC/IRI) indicates a 100 percent probability that the current El Niño event will continue through December, and that it will likely persist into the 2016 first Autumn harvesting season in Haiti which accounts for 20% of the annual production. The lack of a strong global action to alleviate the impact of the drought could see the number of Haitians facing crisis level of food insecurity rise to 1.5 million by March 2016.

The concerns about a possible large-scale impact of the drought have been confirmed by a qualitative assessment undertaken in April 2015 by the CNSA, together with WFP, FAO, FEWS NET and several NGOs, resulting in the decision to conduct a further representative quantitative assessment. However a lack of funds and delays in procedures have caused the postponement of the assessment. The government, through the CNSA, has been trying to monitor the situation with the help of its food security observatories located in each

department of the country, but unfortunately data are not always accurate or of good quality.

The Country Office in Haiti is requesting funds for an EFSA because the Haiti faces a lack of accurate and nationwide data and the CO is limited in its capability to conduct an EFSA without additional financial resources. WFP is proposing to conduct an emergency food security assessment together with the government and partners to:

- (1) Assess the impact of the drought on households' food security and livelihoods;
- (2) Estimate the number of moderately and severely food insecure households;
- (3) Evaluate the evolution of the situation in the next 3-6 months;
- (4) Assess the functioning of markets and their response capacity; and
- (5) Formulate recommendations for action, in the immediate, short and medium term.

WFP will contract with the CNSA, who will perform the majority of the work, but who will need assistance from WFP in data analysis and drafting of the final report. Once assessment findings are available, WFP will discuss the response strategy with the government and partners and will better articulate and substantiate the costs and scope of the recommended response activities, which will be key in transforming donors' interest into contributions.

The duration of this project will be for 3 months (10 November 2015 to 09 February 2016).

The detailed request from the Haiti CO and the budget for preparedness activities are attached. Budget is totalling US\$ 226,460, but we will currently allocate the US\$ 135,249 required for 2015. Remaining balance will be allocated in 2016.

#### Recommendation

It is recommended that this proposal, for an allocation of US\$ 135,249, be approved as the proposed will augment WFPs operational capacity in the region and offer resources to support preparedness in Haiti.



Decision by the Chief of Staff, OED:

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

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

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

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

cc: Regional Bureau/Country office  
Chief RMB  
OSEP Chrono