



Immediate Response Account (IRA) Update

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IRA 2015 Donors

Donor	USD ¹
Norway	12,487,082
Denmark	8,190,008
Switzerland	6,521,739
Belgium	5,417,118
USA*	5,000,000
Canada	4,720,692
Germany	2,717,391
Ireland	2,247,765
Luxembourg	566,893
France	106,045
Liechtenstein	97,943
Spain*	41,438
New Zealand*	7,013

IRA 2015 Allocations

Recipient	USD
Nepal**	15,785,120
Syria	10,792,034
Iraq	9,500,000
Sudan	8,738,317
Somalia**	8,531,346
ODD**	5,870,000
DRC	5,246,750
Yemen	5,000,000
Rwanda	4,376,361
Niger	4,143,611
Kenya**	3,000,000
Palestine**	1,704,239
Vanuatu	1,692,009
Burundi	1,651,693
Bangladesh**	1,401,869
Albania	1,335,053
Iran**	1,065,495
Malawi	917,640
Sri Lanka	859,086
Tanzania	826,043
Djibouti	465,713
Tajikistan**	273,468
Zimbabwe**	208,903
ODB**	176,684
Haiti	75,592

Manbahadur Praja, 50, recalls how the devastating earthquake last April destroyed his family's home, leaving them hungry and penniless.

"I spent three nights on the banks of the nearby river under the open skies, with no food," says Praja. It's the second time a disaster has taken away his livelihood. In 2003, torrential rain and floods destroyed his crops.

The family lives in the Makwanpur district, south of Kathmandu, more than an hour-and-a-half from the nearest road. The earthquake not only left the family homeless, it also ruined their stock of millet and killed their goats and chickens.

Landslides after the earthquake swept away the family's crop of broom grass plants, causing a loss of about 25,000 Nepali Rupees (USD 250), a significant amount in a country where GDP per capita is just USD 420 a year.

As part of its support to the Government of Nepal's earthquake response, WFP is helping Praja's family of five get back on their feet – together with thousands of other quake-affected people.

As well as providing an emergency income, the food-for-assets programme is also helping to rehabilitate the severely battered community.

Praja - along with 290 other households in his village - clears debris, constructs temporary shelters and plants cash crops in exchange for cash support from WFP. These activities are priorities for Praja's community.

The USD 80 he receives for 20 days' work, is desperately needed. Through WFP's programme, Praja planted 2,500 saplings of broom grass, 200 banana plants and dug 50 pits to plant lemons. "This year I will have enough income to buy rice," he says. "I am more concerned about my children than myself and my wife. Despite the hardships, I am still sending my children to school."

Just four weeks before the earthquake, WFP, supported by the government and funded by the UK, opened a Humanitarian Staging Area at Kathmandu airport. This followed two years of intensive emergency preparedness planning, and meant WFP was up and running immediately.

WFP Nepal started its massive operational response thanks to an initial Immediate Response Account allocation of USD 2.1 million, approved within hours of the quake. As of 7 September, a total of USD 16.2 million from the IRA has assisted with airlifting of food, shelter, and other urgently-needed relief to assist some 2 million people - including Praja and his family.



Manbahadur Praja will sell bananas from the trees he planted, thanks to cash disbursed by WFP after the quake.

¹ Figures as of 16 August 2015
* New Donors since Q2
** Recent Recipients
ODD: West Africa Bureau
ODB: Asia Bureau

Quick IRA facts

What is the Immediate Response Account?

The Immediate Response Account (IRA) is WFP's life-saving funding facility, which permits a rapid, well-timed response to an emergency. IRA-financed assistance can be deployed within 24 hours of the onset of a crisis since the effectiveness of humanitarian action depends largely on timely funding. Demand for the IRA often exceeds available funds, so the account is crucial to WFP's frontline operations.

How and when is the IRA used?

The IRA enables WFP to meet the initial demands of life-saving operations, or react swiftly to life-threatening circumstances in an ongoing operation. As a revolving fund, it is replenished with donor contributions. IRA allocations are repaid (revolved) when subsequent contributions are received, if the donor agrees that the contribution is available for this.

Why is the IRA important?

Contributions to the IRA are non-earmarked and have a high degree of flexibility. This allows WFP's executive leadership to identify priority operations. As it consists of non-earmarked funding, the IRA reinforces the principles of timeliness, predictability and flexibility - the tenets of Good Humanitarian Donorship.

In 2014, the amount allocated from the IRA was roughly USD 182 million, including revolving funds. This constitutes roughly 3% of WFP's annual income of USD 5.38 billion. This year, WFP will be in position to provide a larger number of grants from the IRA to those emergencies for which future donations appear limited, but a significant life-threatening situation exists.

Voices from the field

IRAQ

In August, WFP faced tough choices due to a lack of funding, and had to reduce the monthly voucher value for more than 47,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq to USD 10 per person per month. But thanks to some of the USD 9.5 million from the IRA, nearly 1,000 of the most vulnerable refugees will continue to receive USD 19 per person per month to meet their food needs.

However, 50,000 Syrian refugees will no longer receive WFP food assistance because they are allowed to work in Iraq, the only country in the region where refugees can hold work permits. "Through our regular post-distribution monitoring, WFP will keep a close eye on all refugees' food security to ensure that families affected by these cuts are not impacted negatively," said Matteo Perrone, WFP Emergency Coordinator for the Syrian refugees operation in Iraq.

KENYA

Life in the sprawling refugee camp of Dadaab recently became even tougher for its 350,000 residents, who are not allowed to earn an income outside the camp. In mid-June, a shortage of funds forced WFP to reduce food rations for the refugees by 30 percent. By mobilizing USD 3 million through the IRA, WFP has so far avoided having to make further cuts.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Unrest linked to political violence in Burundi has prompted 180,000 Burundians to flee into neighbouring countries. Some USD 5.2 million of IRA funds have been used by WFP in the DRC to support the sudden influx. In June, Eliezer Nyandwi, 40, a smallholder farmer from Burundi, walked with his wife and three children over the border into South Kivu, carrying a suitcase of clothes and some cooking pots.

"When we arrived, we were welcomed by a Congolese family, and we got food from WFP which really helped us," he says. After being registered as refugees, Eliezer and his family moved into Lusenda camp where most Burundian refugees live. "Since our transfer to the camp, we've been getting monthly food rations of maize meal, beans, salt and vegetable oil, so we can eat and live," Eliezer says.



WFP wishes to thank all donors who made flexible contributions to the IRA, supporting one of WFP's most important emergency response tools.