

Immediate Response Account (IRA) Update

Issue No. 4
Spring / 2016

Latest Figures
As of 30 April 2016

IRA 2016 Donors

Donor	USD
Denmark	7,331,378
Switzerland	6,018,054
Belgium	5,417,118
Canada	4,494,382
Sweden	4,000,000
Liechtenstein	98,717
Saudi Arabia	51,916

IRA 2016 Allocations for Q1

Recipient	USD
West Africa Bureau	12,360,355
Ecuador	8,391,097
South Sudan	7,000,000
Malawi	2,769,240
Nigeria	1,682,243
Paraguay	1,388,391
Lesotho	934,580
Fiji	667,580
Swaziland	635,587
Nepal	280,115
Armenia	262,007
C.A.R.	257,620
Papua New Guinea	234,014
Colombia	197,300
Haiti	85,244
Peru	75,090
Zambia	12,000
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	4,083
Grand Total	37,236,546

IRA helps WFP tackle year-long crisis in Yemen

Living conditions in Yemen have continued to deteriorate with little respite from conflict. In less than 12 months, the numbers of people who are unable to obtain enough to eat has increased by 3 million to a total of 14.4 million people – with 2.4 million people internally displaced. One in five people now needs humanitarian assistance. “The food situation is very bad. There is widespread malnutrition and food spoils due to the lack of electricity,” said one man from Al Hudaydah.

Even before the conflict, Yemen had one of the highest rates of child malnutrition in the world. About 1.3 million children are acutely malnourished, and half of all children under 5 are stunted (low height for age). “The damage to Yemen’s next generation may become irreversible if we don’t reach children quickly with the right food at the right time. We must act now before it is too late,” said Ertharin Cousin, WFP Executive Director.

To address a deepening humanitarian crisis, WFP allocated nearly USD 18 million from the Immediate Response Account in December 2015 to Yemen, which is now among the largest recipient countries of IRA emergency funds.

IRA funding is vital for WFP to act fast and provide timely assistance* to the 3 million children and women in need of nutritional support and the 7.6 million people in urgent need of food. “An IRA allocation ensures the continuity of essential emergency food assistance while the global community takes time to react. It is thanks to these flexible funds that we continue our life-saving work,” said Purnima Kashyap, WFP’s Country Director in Yemen.

Prioritizing the 10 governorates at “emergency” level, WFP has been able to reach all districts in Sana’a, Aden and Taiz. Despite heavy fighting in surrounding areas, WFP has provided food assistance to nearly 450,000 people in Taiz, where the highest number of IDPs are hosted.

In Sana’a city and Aden, WFP has started to distribute food vouchers through a local supplier to assist nearly 190,000 people. Vouchers help speed up the delivery of food assistance as well as boosting the local economy. While most of its food assistance arrives via ports, WFP operates three UNHAS flights per week – for staff and light cargo – between Djibouti and Sana’a.

* WFP has reduced the average lead time from 120 days to 56 days to procure and move food to recipient countries



What is The IRA?

The Immediate Response Account (IRA) is WFP’s life-saving funding facility. It allows WFP to provide rapid injections of resources to address life-threatening situations where no contributions are available or forecast. The IRA is replenished with donor contributions and through the revolving of project allocations.

Voices from the field

SOUTH SUDAN

Nearly a quarter of South Sudan’s population – around 2.8 million people – urgently needs food assistance. This is 84 percent higher than one year ago. More than 2 million people are displaced from their homes: 1.69 million inside South Sudan and 648,000 in neighbouring countries.

“South Sudan is facing a deadly blend of conflict, economic hardship and poor rains. Together, they are worsening a hunger gap that we fear will force more people to go hungry and increase malnutrition,” says Joyce Luma, WFP Country Director in South Sudan.

The IRA allocation of USD 7 million helps WFP’s aim to assist more than 3 million people in 2016. This includes life-saving emergency assistance for 1.6 million people directly affected by conflict and recovery support for a further 1.6 million people. However, recent outbreaks of fighting along major routes have disrupted WFP’s distribution of food. Security on the ground, and the fragile peace, remain crucial for the work of relief agencies.

C.A.R.

Since 2013, conflict in the C.A.R. has caused massive population displacement, disrupting agriculture and severely limiting people’s access to food. An estimated 2.5 million people are affected – more than half of the population.

“Three years of crisis have taken a huge toll on the people. Families have been forced so often to sell what they own, pull their kids out of school, even resort to begging - they have reached the end of their tether. This is not the usual run-of-the-mill emergency,” said Guy Adoua, WFP Deputy Country Director in the C.A.R.

Three IRA allocations towards the end of last year, totaling USD 3.5 million, have been critical for WFP to maintain its efforts to save lives and protect livelihoods. Between January and March 2016, WFP provided food to 500,000 people through various activities, including: general food distribution, cash-based transfers, school meals and nutrition support.

FIJI

Thousands of people affected by February’s Tropical Cyclone Winston were able to collect their food vouchers at the beginning of May, as part of a WFP-supported cash-based transfer scheme to assist 71,700 vulnerable people. The Category 5 cyclone left a trail of destruction, killing 44 people and flattening entire villages, devastating crops, and leaving thousands without shelter, food and livelihoods. Following a request from Fiji’s government, and thanks to a disbursement of USD 667,000 from the IRA, WFP is topping up the food

Revolution, Replenishment & Usage of IRA

