

# Immediate Response Account (IRA) Update



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## IRA 2016 Donors<sup>1</sup>

Donor	USD <sup>1</sup>
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 to date<sup>1</sup>

Recipient	USD
Yemen	20,000,000
South Sudan	17,308,615
Regional Bureau, Dakar	15,465,355
Somalia	14,275,043
Ecuador	8,391,097
Malawi	2,769,240
Libya	1,869,158
Nigeria	1,682,243
Rwanda	2,220,753
Paraguay	1,388,391
Philippines	1,030,176
Lesotho	934,580
Timor Leste	791,627
Fiji	667,580
Swaziland	635,587
Regional Bureau, Cairo	467,289
Uganda	402,630
Nepal	607,938
Armenia	262,007
Central African Republic	257,620
Papua New Guinea	234,014
Colombia	197,300
Regional Bureau, Johannesburg	136,226
Haiti	85,244
Peru	75,090
Zambia	12,000
Bolivia	4,083
Grand Total	92,170,886

## IRA helps people affected by strong earthquake in Ecuador

On 16 April, Ecuador was struck by a devastating earthquake of 7.8 magnitude in which 660 people were killed and more than 6,000 people were injured. At the request of the Government of Ecuador, WFP mobilized quickly to provide the first assistance on 18 April. In the first 72 hours, WFP and the authorities organized trucks to transport enough food to feed 40,000 people for three days living in the worst-hit areas of the country. An allocation from the IRA enabled WFP to mobilize within the first days of the emergency.

Thanks to disaster preparedness measures taken previously in the region, emergency food assistance kits were ready to be dispatched, containing quinoa, rice, pasta, tuna, sardines, oatmeal and lentils. Due to the life-saving assistance of the IRA, "this first delivery of food assistance made a tremendous difference in the lives of people in overcoming such hardship," said WFP Representative in Ecuador, Kyungnan Park. "WFP was ready to react swiftly to this emergency thanks to joint emergency preparedness efforts with the Ecuadorian Government to prepare a response to the potential Cotopaxi eruption and the El Niño weather phenomenon, which is currently affecting the country."

Building on the allocation of the IRA, the Country Office was able to operationalize and coordinate a broader response. Within days WFP announced the start of an emergency operation to assist 161,000 vulnerable people who had been seriously affected by the earthquake and were in need of food and other basic necessities. An allocation of more than

USD8 million from the Immediate Response Account proved crucial to scale up assistance in a timely and effective manner. "IRA funds helped us to provide life-saving assistance to the large number of food insecure people who no longer had access to food and their regular sources of income, whilst waiting for the global community to step in," said Kyungnan Park.

On 20 April, WFP provided emergency food assistance for 12 hospitals in the badly-hit province of Manabí. Meanwhile, the WFP-managed UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) supported the humanitarian community by airlifting from Panama 40 metric tons of emergency supplies - including sanitation equipment, hygiene and kitchen kits, and mobile storage units.

In coordination with the Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion, WFP is providing monthly USD100 cash transfers for three months through the government's national safety net platform. Up to 27,000 families (108,000 people) have received these cash transfers to help them rebuild their livelihoods and boost the local economy.

**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.



<sup>1</sup> As of 13 September 2016, and does not include ISC.

## Voices from the field

### SOMALIA

El Niño has brought severe drought to communities in Somaliland and Puntland, which are suffering both deteriorating food security and rising malnutrition rates. Together with partner organizations such as UNICEF, WFP has adopted a unified response including food assistance, nutrition programmes and health services.

“The people of Somalia know all too well the dangers of drought, but a drought does not have to mean a disaster – the world must recognize that we can save lives if we act in time,” said WFP Country Director Laurent Bukera. “It is absolutely critical that we are able to sustain assistance to the people affected by this crisis, so we can stem the damage of undernutrition for mothers and children before it has lifelong consequences.”

WFP’s emergency response received an IRA allocation of USD 14 million that has helped WFP provide nutrition support, food and cash-based assistance to up to 415,000 vulnerable people in the areas worst affected by the drought.

### SOUTH SUDAN

Over two-and-a-half years of conflict have caused rocketing hunger levels in South Sudan, where almost 5 million people are suffering from food insecurity. In July, the escalation of fighting in Juba displaced thousands and disrupted food markets. WFP is concerned about a knock-on effect, causing hunger to worsen as insecurity spreads beyond conflict areas, amidst market shortfalls and impassable roads.

“We are now seeing sharp spikes of need in new areas, such as Eastern Equatoria or Western Bahr el-Ghazal, where malnutrition rates in some places are reaching dangerous levels. We have started ramping up food and nutrition support, but much more is needed to keep things from deteriorating even further during the lean season,” said WFP Country Director Joyce Luma.

An IRA fund allocation of USD 17 million has contributed to WFP’s ability to assist 3.1 million people per month over the first seven months of 2016, including 1.6 million directly affected by conflict and more than 1.5 million others through recovery activities. Nevertheless, both the people of South Sudan and the relief agencies need peace and security most of all - to start rebuilding lives and livelihoods.

### YEMEN

In Yemen, 21.2 million people out of the total population of 27.4 million are in need of humanitarian assistance. More than half of the country’s population is slipping into hunger at ‘crisis’ or ‘emergency’ levels, with 7 million people who are severely food insecure.

Thanks to crucial IRA funding totalling USD 20 million, WFP has been able to feed 6 million people every two months on a rotating basis. Important breakthroughs are also happening with WFP reaching 8,000 people in Marib governorate in July for the first time since December 2015 and launching a food voucher programme in two hard-to-reach districts of Taizz city which helped to ensure more regular access to affected people there.

