



World Food Programme

Decision Memorandum

To:	Mr. Jim Harvey Chief of Staff, OED	Date: 27 May 2016
Through:	Mr. Ramiro Lopes da Silva Assistant Executive Director, OS	
	Mr. Manoj Juneja Assistant Executive Director, RM	
From:	Mr. Stefano Porretti Director of Emergencies, OSE	

Subject:	Regional Bureau for Southern Africa requests fund allocation from Immediate Response Account (IRA) for Specific Preparedness Activities
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Issue

The purpose of this memorandum is to request your approval for an allocation of US\$ 145,762 to support specific preparedness activities to support the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) El Niño Logistics and Coordination Centre (LCC)

Background

As a result of El Niño, southern Africa has seen the driest growing season in 35 years between October 2015 to January 2016, which is causing a highly precarious food security situation, to be further compounded if the poor harvest forecast for the end of the coming growing season materializes.

These conditions are causing the what maize surplus that South Africa and Zambia have had, to dwindle, and seven of nine districts in South Africa have declared disasters, along with drought emergencies being declared in parts of Lesotho, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Malawi and parts of Mozambique, along with anticipated declarations of the same in Botswana and Madagascar.

Rapid assessments have led the SADC to formulate an estimate that around 32 million people are already food insecure in the southern African region, largely as a result of the drought during the last growing season leading to a poor harvest. Early indications point toward acute malnutrition increases in Zimbabwe, Southern Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique. It is expected that the food and nutrition security situation will continue to deteriorate in the coming months, by July, with a peak expected between December 2016 and March 2017.

According to experts, it is highly probable that this El Niño event will be followed by a La Niña event, which will bring with it normal to above normal conditions in parts of the southern Africa region, starting in the last quarter of 2016.

The SADC held a consultative meeting on preparedness and response to the impact of El Niño, in February 2016, with the objective of setting out a common understanding of the effects of El Niño and agree on essential actions and commitments to mitigate against the impacts in the region. On the 15th of March,



a SADC Council of Ministers meeting, approved a Declaration of a Regional Drought Disaster, and the establishment of a Logistics Coordination Centre (LCC) to coordinate preparedness for a regional response in close collaboration with Member States and partners.

In response to a request for support from the SADC Secretariat, made to UN Agencies, to operationalise the LCC, WFP in Southern Africa have agreed to aid in increasing the capacity of the LCC by providing experts to assist and guide the LCC towards its intended objectives. In so doing WFP intends to strengthen the preparedness and readiness of WFP and its partners, improve coordination, and maintain a role in the addressing the impacts of El Niño.

WFP Regional Bureau Southern Africa intends to support the SADC with the following:

1. Senior Advisor – to support the SADC coordination in the day to day coordination of the work plan of the LCC, including the dissemination of key information to key stakeholders.
2. Food Security Analyst – to be a part of a multi-sectoral team of data analysts to develop needs overview documents, population and impacts estimates, establish food/cereal requirements as well as planned food/cereal imports.
3. Two Logistics / Transport Experts – responsible for providing analytical support to the coordination centre, including: Collect and collate and advise member states on all the necessary information to ensure efficient importation planning; advise member states on coordinating and scheduling shipments; identify and advise on potential legal and non-legal impediments of humanitarian food imports; organize the provision of necessary logistical, communication and information needs; establish national and regional joint planning, coordination and operations centres.
4. Communications and Information Technology Expert – to be part of the Communications and Information management sub-unit, providing ICT support to the coordination centre, advising on the use of systems and tools and protocols, and focusing on the collation of information and dissemination through regular updates in line with the SADC secretariat operations rules and regulations.

The duration of this project will be 2 months (26 May – 25 July 2016). The detailed request and the budget for preparedness activities are attached.

Recommendation

In view of the above, having verified that the request conforms to relevant rules, it is recommended that an allocation of US\$ 145,762, including ISC, be approved to support these specific preparedness activities. Currently there is a balance of US\$ 270,523 in the IRA account for Specific Disaster Preparedness Activities.

Decision by the Chief of Staff, OED:

Approve: _____



Disapprove: _____

Discuss with me: _____

Date: _____