



World Food Programme

Decision Memorandum

To: Mr. Jim Harvey
Date: 04 November 2015
Chief of Staff, OED

Through: Mr. Ramiro Lopes da Silva
Assistant Executive Director, OS

Mr. Finbarr Curran
Director Budget and Programming Division,

Subject: Regional Bureau Johannesburg requests fund allocation from the Immediate Response Account (IRA) for Regional El Niño Preparedness for Southern Africa.

Issue

The purpose of this memorandum is to request your approval for an allocation of US\$ 300,000 to support special preparedness activities in the Southern Africa region towards addressing Regional El Niño Preparedness.

Background

The Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) has forecasted a high likelihood of an El Niño season for the 2015/16 cropping season. This is generally characterised by normal-to-below normal rainfall across the southern half of SADC region for the next cropping season. This El Niño event which was officially declared in March 2015, is forecasted to remain active and to peak from the last quarter of 2015 to the first quarter of 2016, which coincides with the peak of the agricultural season in this region. The El Niño is forecasted to be one of the strongest in the past 35 years.

Under such circumstances, historically, crop production is adversely affected. This comes against the backdrop of a poor 2014/15 agricultural season which resulted in the current food deficit situation in countries such as Malawi, Zimbabwe and Madagascar. The overall cereal harvest in the region (excluding Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles) decreased by 21% from 42.98 million tonnes in 2014 to 33.84 million tonnes in 2015. This is coupled by local currency depreciation, which contributes to abnormal price increases. Given these conditions, the region is likely to face very serious food security challenges in the coming lean season and next year's harvest.

This is a regional IR-PREP that will include activities in Madagascar, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, DRC, Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland and will be completed by three additional IR-Preps specific to Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

The work to be completed will include:

- Activity 1 - Enhanced Commodity Price Monitoring using MVAM Platform;
- Activity 2 - Cereal/Maize Cross-border monitoring (informal and formal);
- Activity 3 - Information Management and Hazard mapping in Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique;
- Activity 4 - Development of Regional Supply Chain Capacity Assessment;
- Activity 5 - Regional Support for preparedness actions in other RBJ countries: while the above activities will target specific priority countries, it is important to note that the impact of the el Niño could also negatively impact other countries in the region with similar proportions. It is therefore vital that the preparedness approach be across the region board.

The duration of this project will be for 3 months (9 November, 2015 - 8 February 2016).

The detailed request from the Johannesburg Regional Bureau and the budget for preparedness activities are attached. Budget is totalling US\$ 285,288. There is currently a balance of US\$ 975,015.97 for IRA Preparedness activities.

Recommendation

It is recommended that this IRA proposal, for an allocation of US\$ 285,288 be approved as the proposed will augment WFPs operational capacity in the region and offer resources to support El Niño preparedness in the Southern Africa region.



Decision by the Chief of Staff, OED:

Approve: _____

Disapprove: _____

Discuss with me: _____

Date: _____

cc: Regional Bureau/Country office
Chief RMB
OSEP Chrono