

Proforma for requesting an IRA allocation for preparedness activities

To:	Calum Gardner Chief, Organization Budgeting Service (RMBB)	Date:	January 18 th , 2016
Through:	Miguel Barreto RD OMP		
From:	Kyungnan Park Country Director, Ecuador		

Subject:	Request for funds allocation from the Immediate Response Account (IRA) for a Special Preparedness Activity in Ecuador.
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The phenomenon of El Niño Southern Oscillation, known as *El Niño* presents a direct threat and challenge to food security in the region as it has been forecasted to be the strongest of its kind in over 35 years.¹ Climate change and variability are already impacting South America and will continue to have medium and long-term impacts, particularly on livelihoods as well as on food and nutrition security. Extreme weather events are disrupting harvest patterns, crop yields, livestock herds and water supplies. These effects are further aggravated in Ecuador by poverty and inequalities, geographical location, topography, unequal distribution of resources and land-use practices. According to weather trends and current predictions, there is little doubt that this year's *El Niño* will have devastating effects on the region of South America and particularly in Ecuador. *El Niño* is expected to reach its maximum intensity between January and May 2016, causing various effects throughout the South American Region.²

The Pacific Coast of Ecuador expect a dramatic increase in rainfall, resulting in intense flooding.³ According to the International Centre for the Investigation of the El Niño phenomenon (CIIFEN), the adverse event in Ecuador will present the following anomalies:

- Increase in the sea temperature: habitat change and decrease of fish species available for fishing;
- Increase in sea level: since August 2015, the sea has risen between 10 and 20cm in the Ecuadorian Coast, causing the waves and tide to enter populated areas located near beaches; this implicates erosion of the coastline, destruction of beaches and the potential degradation of protective barriers of ports and coastal highways that allow commercial flow inland and between provinces;
- Increase in air temperature: causing a change in vector diseases (mosquitos), problems of leptospirosis (skin disease), a greater number of snake bites, among others. On the other hand, an increase in energy consumption for refrigeration in the industrial and household sectors affects economic resources;

¹ Bonifacio, Rogerio. "El Niño: Implications and Scenarios for 2015." World Food Programme, VAM Analysis, 2015.

² "El Niño - NASA Science." El Niño - NASA Science. 2015.

³ Latin America and the Caribbean: El Niño, Rainfall and Drought, OCHA Report 2015.

CC:

Regional Director, OMP
Chief, OMEP
Director, OSZ
Chief, RMBP
Chief, RMBB

- Change in the pattern of precipitation: strong precipitation is predicted along the entire coastline of the country and the Andean and Amazon regions will be partially affected. Strong rains cause intense flooding and directly affect the livelihoods and food security of communities who require humanitarian assistance.

In recent years, the impact of the El Niño phenomenon in Ecuador has been significant. In the 1982-83 El Niño, losses amounted to more than US\$ 1 billion. As a result of El Niño in 1997-98, the Secretary Risk Management-SGR estimated the losses at about US\$ 3 billion. These data are the result of the assessments of the National Secretary of Planning and Development SENPLADES.

Ecuador has a population of more than 16 million⁴, of which 22.35 percent live below the poverty line and 7.34 percent live in extreme poverty. Obesity, overweight, undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies are present simultaneously, with malnutrition the most visible given the prevalence of anaemia, which affects 62 percent of children under 1 year. Malnutrition is closely related to poor access to nutritious foods, as well as cultural habits and inadequate sanitation. The rate of chronic malnutrition is 25.3 percent⁵ in children under 5.

On 15 October 2010, WFP Ecuador signed a “Memorandum of Understanding” with SGR to work together focusing on capacity building, technical assistance and emergency preparedness and response. In emergency situations, WFP has traditionally assisted the Government of Ecuador to support populations who are most vulnerable to food insecurity. During a flood emergency in 2012, WFP assisted approximately 50,000 people in urgent need of food through the delivery of food rations and high energy biscuits.

Additionally, WFP Ecuador, in coordination with other UN Agencies and international NGOs, established the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in November 2013. On 21 August 2015 the SGR asked the HCT for support with technical and humanitarian assistance regarding El Niño effects.

IRA AMOUNT REQUESTED: US\$ 208.251

DURATION OF THE ACTIVITY: February 1th 2016 to April 30th 2016

JUSTIFICATION:

There is a general concern about the impact of the forecasted strong El Niño in Ecuador in 2015-2016. The Government of Ecuador has started preparedness activities, through SGR who maintain the national rectorate in terms of risk management, and with local government GAD who have the risk management responsibility at local level.

Various ministries in coordination with the SGR and local governments GAD, have started to update and revise their contingency plans to identify critically affected geographic sectors, vulnerable populations, potential impacts and mitigation measures. Both sides, national and local levels, have required WFP technical and humanitarian assistance.

WFP has developed a joint strategy with the SGR in the “Regional Disaster Emergency Preparedness and Response” (DEPR) project, which has strengthened the capacities of the technical staff of the ministries and GAD in themes of Initial Evaluation of Needs (EVIN), Food Security in Emergencies (ESAE) and the Logistic Chain of Humanitarian Assistance.

⁴ INEC, Instituto Ecuatoriano de Estadística y Censo, October 2015.

⁵ ENSANUT, 2013

On the other hand, diverse communities located in more vulnerable zones lack community plans, early alert systems, evacuation signs, equipment to respond to emergencies, and the knowledge of priority actions during the emergency response phase.

As part of the immediate response preparedness, WFP Ecuador, in coordination with SGR, have established the following plan to be implemented during the period of February 1th to April 30th 2016:

1. Capacity Building for needs assessment and logistic:

Needs Assessments:

Strengthened preparedness to technical national and local staff from governmental local institutions in Esmeraldas, Guayas, Manabí, Los Ríos, Santa Elena and El Oro about needs assessment:

Assessment thematic: Initial Needs Assessment (EVIN), Emergency Food Security Assessment (ESAE 72h) and Humanitarian Supply Chain.

Proposal: 6 workshops covering at least 6 provinces, and the best students will participate in the two Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop.

As part of this activity, technical material will be developed.

“Logistic Capacity assessment” of the Risk Management Secretariat.

a). Initial assessment and identification of gaps: evaluation of the SGR capacity in logistics will be made through analysis of infrastructure and resources, analysis of procedures, storage schemes, transport, route selection analysis for transport of humanitarian assistance etc.

b). Analyse the current of Humanitarian Assistance logistic supply chain vs international standards:

Provision (procurement, receipt, storage, management and control of supplies)

Distribution (receiving orders, order preparation (kits), transport, delivery)

Storage and pre-positioning of supplies

c) Identification of the logistics response scenarios to the various threats the country

d) Mapping of warehouses, logistics corridors and interconnecting pathways

2. Support to the development of preparedness plan for “El Niño” emergency

Assistance in developing emergency signals for evacuation in 6 communities.

120 emergency water purifiers and filter supplies for six vulnerable communities (identified between SGR and WFP).

Provision of training material for “family contingency plans”.

Communication campaign to support community preparedness in coordination with National Secretary of Communication.

3. Technical Material for needs assessment and preparedness activities:

Manuals for needs assessment: EVIN, ESAE and Humanitarian Supply Chain

Family contingency plans: Ecuador Government publication, for capacity development and augmentation, from the families located in areas of high vulnerability.

In response to the Government of Ecuador request, CO requires additional funding to continue and replicate preparedness measures. As a strategic partner and specialized agency in EPR, WFP

will help improve responses and effectiveness through a joint and multilevel (local and national) capacity building plan.

PART 2: DETAILED BUDGET

Budget attached.