



**World Food Programme**

## Decision Memorandum

To:	Mr. Jim Harvey Chief of Staff, OED	Date: 04 March 2016
Through:	Mr. Ramiro Lopes da Silva Assistant Executive Director, OS  Mr. Finbarr Curran Director Budget and Programming Division, RMB	
From:	Mr. Stefano Porretti Director of Emergencies, OSE	

Subject:	Central African Republic (C.A.R.) request for funds allocation from the Immediate Response Account (IRA)
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### Issue

The purpose of this memorandum is to request your approval for an allocation of US\$ 275,653 to support specific preparedness activities in C.A.R.

### Background

In December 2013, a surge of violence and sectarian conflict in C.A.R. triggered a humanitarian crisis, causing large scale displacement and widespread food insecurity. The situation remains volatile and unresolved, affecting almost the entire population due to sporadic outbreaks of extreme violence that continue to occur throughout the country.

Presidential and legislative elections were held at the end of December 2015. In January, the latter were annulled due to alleged irregularities and postponed to a date yet to be defined, whereas a second round of presidential elections is scheduled for 14 February 2016. Further violence and subsequent population displacement are expected around election time.

Against this background, the recent Emergency Food Security Assessment finds that half of the population (2.5 million people) are food insecure. Major factors to this alarming increase include the prolonged insecurity and the resulting population displacement, the reduced agriculture production due to inaccessibility to land, and the increased burden on communities and households hosting the displaced over an extended period of time.

Following the third budget revision to the regional Emergency Operation (EMOP) 200799, WFP aims to expand cash-based assistance in areas where markets are accessible and responsive to cash injection. Where cash-based transfers (CBTs) are and will be implemented, disaggregated market data and monitoring of beneficiary purchasing patterns will ensure markets have sufficient foods in quality and quantity to achieve programme objectives.



To strengthen the preparedness of the Country Office to further violence and displacements, to continuously monitor the food security situation across the country and to evaluate the possibility of expanding CBTs activities in C.A.R., WFP aims to undertake the following activities:

1. Recruit, a consultant or locate someone for a TDY, someone with WFP Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) expertise, for three months to assist the Country Office in fully implementing the Emergency Preparedness and Response Package (EPRP), and organize an EPRP preparedness simulation to enhance the preparedness level of the Country Office should a further deterioration of the situation occur.
2. Launch the mVAM platform to collect household food security data and food prices in remote areas to ensure close monitoring and preparedness for action. The activity will include a pilot round with GeoPoll (Interactive Voice Response mode); three rounds of targeting key markets and random sampling via live calls; a training session of both WFP staff and government representatives; and a face to face data validation in the field.
3. Carry out market assessments and sectorial capacity assessments to evaluate the opportunities and constraints of local market-based responses, overall assessing the operational feasibility of CBTs in the country in preparedness of a potential scale up.

The duration of this project will be 3 months (28 March – 28 June 2016). The detailed request from the C.A.R Country Office 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\$ 275,653, including ISC, be approved to support these specific preparedness activities. Currently there is a balance of US\$ 1,126,523 in the IRA account for Specific Disaster Preparedness Activities.

Decision by the Chief of Staff, OED:

Approve: \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove: \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss with me: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_