

Immediate Response Account (IRA) Update

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IRA 2015 Donors¹

Donor	USD ¹
Norway	12,487,082
Denmark	8,190,008
Switzerland	6,521,739
Belgium	5,417,118
USA	5,000,000
Canada	4,720,692
Ireland	4,269,743
Sweden	4,000,000
Germany	2,717,391
Luxembourg	566,893
China	488,000
France	106,045
Liechtenstein	97,943
Spain	55,991
New Zealand	7,013

IRA 2015 Allocations for Q4¹

Recipient	USD
Somalia	20,207,075
Yemen	17,966,777
Malawi	5,786,000
Kenya	5,290,493
Afghanistan	5,000,000
Algeria	3,455,629
Chad	2,567,392
ODD*	2,333,500
Pakistan	1,339,781
ODD**	1,200,000
Bolivia	1,020,371
ODD***	746,565
Iran	746,355
Nepal	467,290
Greece	285,100
ODJ	266,624
Zimbabwe	201,000
Zambia	174,000
Haiti	126,400
Peru	96,584
Paraguay	34,424

¹ Figures as of 31 December 2015

Acronyms:
*ODD - Democratic Republic of Congo & Central African Republic
**ODD - Republic of Congo
***ODD - Nigeria

IRA funds help WFP Somalia respond to El Niño

In the last 20 years, Somalia has experienced two significant El Niño events both of which resulted in significant loss of life and destruction of property and livestock. The country now faces a third El Niño event that has triggered a severe drought in north-western Somalia and floods in the southern and central regions. Vulnerable people are the hardest hit and they rely on humanitarian organizations like WFP to provide them with life-saving assistance during this crisis.

"The floods in 2006 caused a lot of damage. Houses and schools were destroyed. We needed food, medical care, and shelter," said Abukar Haji Yacqub, an elderly resident of Jowhar town, one of the areas frequently affected by floods.

In early October 2015, funding from the Immediate Response Account (IRA) allowed WFP to purchase 1,764 MT of pulses, SuperCereal, PlumpySup, PlumpyDoz and vegetable oil through the Global Commodity Management Facility in Mombasa where most of these commodities were readily available.

The food was pre-positioned in locations facing a higher risk of floods such as Afgoye, Balcad, Beletweyne and Jowhar.

Logistical assets, including boats and a helicopter, were also deployed to reach people in locations where road access was compromised due to floods.

"Early action and emergency preparedness means WFP was able to respond to rising needs immediately," said Laurent Bukera, WFP representative for Somalia.

WFP provided food and nutrition support to 46,000 people affected by floods in Middle Shabelle, Hiran, and Lower Juba. WFP is currently assisting 60,000 people affected by the devastating drought in Somaliland.

The inclusion of IRA funding as part of the El Niño response planning gave WFP Somalia a stronger advocacy position to raise urgently needed resources. WFP was able to show donors that initial emergency funds have already been allocated for pre-positioning food in Somalia.

IRA funding has also been used for El Niño preparation activities in southern Africa, focusing on Madagascar, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe (with contingency for other countries including DRC, Lesotho, Swaziland and Tanzania).



Voices from the field

YEMEN

In the past months, IRA funding (nearly USD 18 million) has proved vital for WFP to continue its efforts to save lives and protect livelihoods in Yemen, which is facing one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world. With one in five Yemenis requiring humanitarian assistance and 2.5 million people forced to flee their homes, there are now a staggering 14.4 million people struggling to find enough food.

Checkpoints, insecurity and the reluctance of transporters to enter volatile areas are major challenges to the delivery of food assistance via both road and sea. "WFP needs freedom and safety of movement inside the country to reach as many people as possible with food assistance before they fall deeper into hunger," said WFP's Yemen Country Director, Purnima Kashyap.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Conflict and insecurity in the Central African Republic have severely limited access to and availability of food - doubling the number of hungry people in the course of one year - to nearly 2.5 million. Following renewed clashes in September 2015, nearly 1 million people remain displaced inside C.A.R. or seeking refuge in neighbouring countries.

IRA funding has been critical for WFP to provide food for nearly 400,000 people in December 2015 through general food distributions, cash-based transfers, nutrition support, school meals and food-for-assets activities. All emergency food and nutritional support goes towards the most needy. "We must help the most vulnerable who need emergency food assistance to survive, yet we also need to focus on people across C.A.R. so they can recover and rebuild," says Guy Adoua, WFP C.A.R. Deputy Country Director.

MALAWI

Due to severe flooding in early 2015, followed by prolonged dry spells, some 2.8 million people in Malawi need food assistance. El Niño is making the situation worse, with severely-reduced rainfall in the region. Some USD 5.6 million of IRA funding has been spent in response to needs and strengthening resilience.

The price of rice, Malawi's staple, is 73 percent higher than the three year average for this time of year. "I'm particularly concerned that smallholder farmers won't be able to harvest enough crops to feed their own families through the year, let alone sell what little they can in order to cover school fees and other household needs," said WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin on a recent visit to southern Africa, where Malawi is among the countries worst-affected by food insecurity.

Quick IRA facts

What is the Immediate Response Account?

The Immediate Response Account (IRA) is WFP's life-saving funding facility, which permits a rapid, well-timed response to an emergency. IRA-financed assistance can be deployed within 24 hours of the onset of a crisis since the effectiveness of humanitarian action depends largely on timely funding. Demand for the IRA often exceeds available funds, so the account is crucial to WFP's frontline operations.

How and when is the IRA used?

The IRA enables WFP to meet the initial demands of life-saving operations, or react swiftly to life-threatening circumstances in an ongoing operation. As a revolving fund, it is replenished with donor contributions. IRA allocations are repaid (revolved) when subsequent contributions are received.

Why is the IRA important?

Contributions to the IRA are non-earmarked and have a high degree of flexibility. This allows WFP's executive leadership to identify priority operations. As it consists of non-earmarked funding, the IRA reinforces the principles of timeliness, predictability and flexibility - the tenets of Good Humanitarian Donorship.

In 2015, the amount allocated from the IRA was roughly USD 165 million, including revolving funds. This constitutes roughly 3.25 percent of WFP's annual income of USD 5.06 billion. This year, WFP will be in a position to provide a larger number of grants from the IRA to those emergencies where future donations appear limited, but a significant life-threatening situation exists.



WFP wishes to thank all donors who made flexible contributions to the IRA, supporting one of WFP's most important emergency response tools.