



**World Food  
Programme**

**Programme  
Alimentaire  
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Mundial de  
Alimentos**

**برنامج  
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# WFP Emergency Response Classifications

The following document presents the different level classifications of WFP's internal Emergency Response operations and the criteria necessary to activate them. It dates back to 2006 but was updated in 2012 as part of the Preparedness and Response Enhancement Programme (PREP). Through PREP, it will undergo another review and update this year to reflect lesson learned from the recent Level 2 and Level 3 responses. This document also presents the IASC System-wide Level 3 activation and the possibility of a dual-track Level 3 system.

## 1. WFP Emergency Response

### Classifications

WFP classifies Emergency Response operations according to a three-level scale:

- **Level 1 Response:** Emergency operations within the response capabilities of the relevant WFP Country Office (CO), with routine support from Regional Bureaux (RB).
- **Level 2 Response:** Emergency Response operations requiring regional augmentation of country-level response capability.
- **Level 3 Response:** Emergency Response operations requiring mobilisation of WFP global response capabilities in support of the relevant CO(s) and/or RB, i.e. a Corporate Response.

### Activation Criteria

A WFP Emergency Response will be activated when:

- a. WFP action is required to respond to events or circumstances causing human suffering or threatening human lives or livelihoods, and which the host government(s) concerned does not have the means to remedy<sup>1</sup>; and
- b. WFP/UN reputation is at risk; and
- c. There is a clear mandate for WFP to engage.

**Level 1 Response.** A Level 1 Response should be activated when the conditions referred to above are met and the concerns WFP CO possesses or has access to the requisite capacity and resources (including financial resources, personnel, assets, stock and managerial oversight) to efficiently and effectively address such needs within WFP's mandate. Any country with an EMOP or a PRRO is in effect at de facto L1 Response status unless elevated.

**Level 2 Response.** A Level 2 Response should be activated when the conditions referred to above are met and when:

<sup>1</sup> This criterion is to be applied in line with the WFP definition of an Emergency.

- regional augmentation of existing in-country capacity and resources is required in order to ensure an efficient and effective WFP response of appropriate scale in relation to the emergency; and/or
- regional coordination is required in order to coordinate WFP response actions across more than one country or territory.

**Level 3 Response.** A Level 3, or Corporate Response, should be activated when the conditions referred to above are met and when:

- the urgency, scale, or complexity of the emergency overwhelms the immediate capability of the CO and RB; and/or
- extraordinary procedures, capacities, and resources resident in WFP corporate capability are temporarily required.

In accordance with IASC Transformative Agenda and Humanitarian System-Wide Emergency Activation Procedures<sup>2</sup>, WFP adheres to a ‘no regrets’ approach to Emergency Response activation and deployment, preferring to mobilize and withdraw excess capacity and resources rather than risk failing to meet the most urgent needs of people in crisis.

**Pre-emptive Response.** WFP Emergency Response levels may be also activated pre-emptively. For example, a Level 2 Response may be activated to prevent a deterioration in the humanitarian situation (or to bolster WFP capacities) in order to avoid the necessity for Level 3 Response declaration at a later date. This was successfully done in the Sahel in 2012 based on early warning signs.

## 2. IASC System-Wide Level 3 Activation

The designation of an Inter-Agency system-wide Level 3 activation is based on an analysis of 5 criteria: scale, complexity, urgency, capacity, and reputational risk. The Level 3 activation engages IASC member organizations to ensure that they put in place the right systems and mobilize resources to contribute to the response as per their mandate areas. It does not, however, prejudice or affect the ability of IASC member organizations to decide on activation (or deactivation) of their respective major emergency mechanisms and procedures, nor the manner in which those would be applied.

Therefore, a dual-track system for Level 3 emergency responses can be in place whereby a IASC system-wide Level 3 response can be activated without a WFP/UN agency Level 3 response as long as each agency can meet its inter-agency obligations under a system-wide Level 3 or there can be a WFP/UN agency Level 3 without a IASC system-wide Level 3 in place.

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<sup>2</sup> See Humanitarian System-Wide Emergency Activation: definition and procedures, IASC 09 March 2012.

## Current Portfolio of WFP Level 2 and Level 3 Emergency Responses

Country	Current WFP Level	Changes in WFP levels	IASC System-wide Level 3 Response in place
<b>Central African Republic</b>	WFP L3 since 11 December 2013	Was a WFP L2 from 14 May 2013 until 11 December 2013	Yes, since 11 December 2013
<b>South Sudan</b>	WFP L3 since 23 December 2013	WFP declared South Sudan a Level 3 emergency on 08 February 2012. It was deactivated to a Level 2 on 14 December 2012.	Yes, since 11 February 2014
<b>Syria and sub-region</b>	WFP L3 since 14 December 2012	-	Yes, since 15 January 2013
<b>DRC</b>	WFP L2 since 12 December 2013	-	No
<b>Mali</b>	WFP L2 since 12 January 2012	-	No
<b>Somalia</b>	WFP L2 since 02 August 2012	WFP declared Somalia/Horn of Africa a Level 3 emergency on 20 July 2011; deactivated to a Level 2 on 02 August 2012.	No
<b>Yemen</b>	WFP L2 since 30 July 2012	-	No