

# Immediate Response Account (IRA) Update

## South Sudanese refugees receive IRA-funded assistance on arrival in Uganda

In the second half of 2016, the number of South Sudanese refugees fleeing to Uganda increased, peaking at 7,000 people entering the country per day. In an effort to reach as many of these people as possible – 86 percent of whom were women and children – WFP was forced to cut rations because of insufficient resources to assist them.

An allocation of USD 10 million from the Immediate Response Account (IRA) gave WFP's Uganda Country Office time to mobilize further contributions and lessen the likelihood of deeper ration cuts for South Sudanese refugees fleeing to Uganda.

Uganda hosts an unprecedented increase of 407,000 people who have arrived from South Sudan between July 2016 and 9 January 2017. Most refugees said they were fleeing their country due to the fear of ethnically motivated killings, attacks on homes during the night, rape, forced recruitment of young males to armed groups, and indiscriminate killings.

"In August, WFP was forced to cut rations for all refugees who arrived in Uganda prior to July 2015, with the exception of malnourished children and vulnerable groups," said WFP Uganda Country Director El Khidir Daloum. "We were planning to bring in deeper ration cuts in December 2016, but thanks to this IRA allocation, we were able to cover a critical immediate food gap for December and January while ensuring continuity in our life-saving assistance for the more vulnerable refugees."

WFP provides high-energy biscuits to people arriving at the border, along with cooked meals in transit and reception centres. Ready-to-use supplementary foods are also distributed to treat cases of acute malnutrition right at the border points where WFP's partners screen children.

Once families move to settlements, where they are given plots of land, WFP provides monthly staple foods, including cereals, pulses, vegetable oil fortified with vitamin A, iodized salt, and a nutrient-rich porridge mix to prevent micronutrient deficiencies.

About 15 percent of refugees receive cash transfers instead of in-kind food from WFP, which they use to buy food in the local markets. People with acute malnutrition continue to receive supplementary rations of specialized nutritional products at settlements' health centres until they have recovered.

USD 57 million is still required to provide food assistance to refugees in Uganda until June 2017.

**The Immediate Response Account (IRA)** is WFP's life-saving funding facility. It allows WFP to provide rapid injections of resources to address life-threatening situations where no contributions are available or forecast. The IRA is replenished with donor contributions and through allocations being revolved.

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### IRA 2016 Donors<sup>1</sup>

| Donor       | USD <sup>1</sup> |
|-------------|------------------|
| Denmark     | 7,331,378        |
| Switzerland | 6,018,054        |
| Belgium     | 5,417,118        |
| Canada      | 4,494,382        |
| Sweden      | 4,000,000        |
| USA         | 4,000,000        |
| Germany     | 2,265,006        |

### IRA 2016

#### 1. Major allocations to date<sup>1</sup>

| Recipient                                      | USD        |
|--|------------|
| West Africa Bureau, including Nigeria & C.A.R. | 40,444,598 |
| Yemen  | 35,780,379 |
| Somalia  | 27,757,734 |
| Madagascar                                     | 17,361,443 |
| South Sudan                                    | 17,308,615 |
| Uganda   | 10,402,630 |
| Haiti  | 10,365,437 |
| Afghanistan                                    | 9,242,648  |
| Ecuador  | 8,391,097  |
| Congo (Democratic Republic of the)             | 5,970,000  |
| Niger  | 5,000,000  |
| Pakistan                                       | 4,269,366  |
| Malawi   | 2,769,240  |
| Tanzania                                       | 2,000,000  |
| Cuba   | 1,998,620  |
| Mauritania                                     | 1,962,616  |
| Libya  | 1,869,158  |
| Paraguay                                       | 1,388,391  |
| Bolivia  | 1,233,120  |
| Philippines                                    | 1,030,176  |
| Chad   | 984,580    |
| Lesotho  | 930,580    |
| Latin America and Caribbean Bureau             | 882,283    |
| Rwanda   | 823,033    |

**2. Total of all allocations** **215,186,334**

<sup>1</sup> As of 31 December 2016, and does not include ISC.



South Sudanese children enjoying WFP food at Bidi Bidi settlement, northwest Uganda.

## Saving and Changing Lives — with IRA funds

### **NIGERIA (WEST AFRICA BUREAU)**

Boko Haram violence in Nigeria has taken a heavy toll on displaced people and host communities in neighbouring countries. Whole villages have been forced to flee and crops have been destroyed due to the conflict. This has deepened food shortages.

While refugees, returnees and internally displaced people have been escaping northern Nigeria into Chad, Cameroon, and Niger since 2013, the influx has increased in recent years as the conflict deepened. The highly volatile situation demands support, as well as funding to assist those affected.

WFP's emergency response received an IRA allocation of USD 14 million to help meet food and nutrition needs, save lives and protect livelihoods in this emergency.

Thanks to IRA funds, WFP is providing pulses, vegetable oil and staples such as rice, maize, corn and soya blend to 1.6 million people in the four countries - working in partnership with the governments, the ICRC and NGOs to assist those affected.

### **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (WEST AFRICA BUREAU)**

Outbreaks of violence in different regions have created instability and hunger across the Central African Republic. The country has some of the highest chronic malnutrition rates in the world - with 40 percent of children aged 6-59 months suffering from stunting.

The situation is further exacerbated by a lack of funds to support all those in need. Due to this, the IRA allocated USD 11.8 million during 2016 to cover food distributions to the most vulnerable families.

Cash-based transfers are received by people who are displaced as well as host communities. Children from 6-59 months in addition to pregnant and nursing women receive WFP's nutrition support.

WFP is reaching about 300,000 people every month in C.A.R. with lifesaving and livelihood assistance.

### **YEMEN**

With civil conflict, large-scale displacement, endemic poverty, diminishing resources and an influx of refugees and migrants, a staggering 18.9 million Yemenis are currently in need of humanitarian assistance. This figure includes 460,000 children who face Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), which is life-threatening unless urgently addressed.

In 2016, about 117 health centres closed due to continuing conflict. This rendered access to nutrition services for children and pregnant and nursing mothers even more difficult.

Over the past 12 months, IRA allocations totalled USD 35.7 million, helping WFP increase its assistance across Yemen. The huge scale and severity of food needs means that WFP is providing 6 million people with reduced rations, with 1 million of those supported through vouchers.

In November, almost 1.7 million people received emergency food in 14 governorates.

### **PAKISTAN**

Agriculture is vital to Pakistan, employing almost half the workforce and contributing over a fifth of the Gross Domestic Product. Nevertheless, 6 out of 10 people are food insecure in the country.

WFP works closely with the Government to achieve Zero Hunger. Activities range from relief food distribution for displaced people and returnees to nutrition programmes for children.

USD 4.2 million from the IRA has been used to address malnutrition among women and children; support food and nutrition security among displaced groups as well as help communities build resilience in areas prone to disasters.

WFP has provided nearly 250,000 school children with high energy biscuits and take-home rations of fortified vegetable oil in schools across six Federally Administered Tribal Areas.



Mothers waiting to receive Plumpy Sup, to give their children under 5 a nutritional boost, at an IDP Camp in Maiduguri, Nigeria.