

Immediate Response Account (IRA) Update

IRA Supports Refugees in Tanzania

Since 2015, political unrest in Burundi has forced hundreds of thousands of refugees to flee into Tanzania. This has caused the refugee population to quadruple to over 300,000 now, from a pre-influx population of 65,000 refugees.

As a result of the influx, WFP is facing challenges in raising enough funds to continue providing life-saving food for the refugee population in Tanzania.

In September and December 2016, WFP issued funding appeals to development partners. The response was positive and donors contributed, but given the size of the operation, which required over US\$6 million per month in 2016, it was not enough to address looming ration reductions.

That is where the IRA funding helped significantly. With emergency funding of USD 5.8 million from IRA, WFP was able to maintain food distributions through February 2017.

The IRA funds support a range of WFP's refugee feeding programmes. These include hot meals for new arrivals and a general food basket consisting of maize meal, pulses, salt, vegetable oil and fortified porridge blend. IRA funds further help WFP to provide families with young children and vulnerable populations additional rations of fortified foods. These rations are critical in supporting pregnant and nursing women, HIV patients and hospital in-patients while also fighting stunting and malnutrition in children.

"The additional nutrients help my children and give me peace of mind," said Irakoze, a Burundian refugee and mother of three.

"Ininahazwe, my youngest child, was born here in the refugee camp. All she knows is camp life, but with the food, she can grow up healthy."

Irakoze and her family fled to Tanzania during the 2015 influx. She was at home cooking dinner for her family in late April, when a group of men barged into the home and began threatening the family.

"I was so scared that I didn't know what to do," Irakoze said. "I felt like we had to leave. Several people we knew had already been killed or fled, but it is also scary to leave your home and everything you've built."

After, her husband returned home from work, they decided to flee to Tanzania. Following two weeks of traveling at night and hiding out along the way, Irakoze and her family arrived safely in Tanzania and are currently hosted at Mtendeli Refugee Camp.

"It is challenging living in a camp, but one thing we do not have to worry about is food and nutrition for our children," said Irakoze.

Within the East African region, Tanzania hosts the largest population of new Burundian refugees. Since 2015, Over 70 percent of arriving refugees are women and children.

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 the repayment of allocations when possible (called 'revolving').

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IRA 2017 Donors¹

Donor	USD ¹
Canada	4,460,966
Sweden	4,000,000
Ireland	3,846,994
Germany	1,700,680
Liechtenstein	97,560

IRA 2017

1. Major allocations to date¹

Recipient	USD
Tanzania	5,800,000
Somalia	5,000,000
Malawi	2,362,861
Algeria	1,458,952
Kenya	1,395,292
Mozambique	925,282
Uganda	280,373
Sri Lanka	188,300

2. Total of all allocations 17,411,060



Mother and child at Mtendeli Refugee Camp, Tanzania. Photo: WFP/Max Wohlgenuth

¹ As of 31 March 2017, and does not include ISC.

Saving and Changing Lives — with IRA funds

SOMALIA

A set of factors - in particular the current drought, combined with the absence of jobs and volatile food prices - have pushed millions of Somalis back into hunger. WFP is addressing two challenges: food shortage, and where food is available, people's ability to buy it.

WFP's response targets the worst-affected areas by using a combination of food distributions and cash-based transfers to maximize the number of people reached. Some 3 million people cannot meet their daily food requirements, while another 3.3 million need support to avoid sliding into crisis.

Earlier this year, the IRA allocated USD 5 million to Somalia to respond to alarming levels of food insecurity. Without immediate food and nutrition support, malnutrition rates for children and adults alike could rise, resulting in famine-like conditions.

WFP is using new technologies for registration, management and remote monitoring and evaluation to ensure the IRA allocation is used as effectively as possible. As people move around the country and their requirements change, WFP can rapidly refine and adapt its programming to assist more people.

MALAWI

Political instability and social unrest across the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region is generating a continuous flow of refugees into Malawi. Climate shocks, triggered by El Niño, have also destroyed crops, causing food insecurity.

Malawi has been hosting refugees for more than two decades. Recently, most people seeking safety have arrived from Mozambique, DRC and Burundi.

New arrivals are taken to the camps by the Malawi authorities and receive food and other basic items provided by WFP's partners. Adults are assisted with food items including maize, fortified vegetable oil, pulses and SuperCereal, while infants are provided with Super Cereal Plus to address malnutrition and prevent stunting.

Due to funding shortages, Malawi was granted USD 2.36 million from the IRA to provide food assistance to refugees and asylum seekers in camps such as Dzaleka, Luwani and Karonga transit shelter.

ALGERIA

In Southwest Algeria, refugees from Western Sahara live in camps located in the isolated desert environment. The harsh conditions make the refugees and vulnerable locals dependent on humanitarian assistance, including food needs.

In Algeria, the IRA allocated USD 1.45 million to improve food consumption and reduce acute malnutrition. A special focus is on children under 5 and pregnant and nursing women.

To improve the overall food security of camp residents, WFP provides daily rations of basic food in cooperation with UNHCR and the Algerian Red Crescent. Fresh fruits, vegetables, canned fish and yeast are delivered through coordination with the Spanish Red Cross and OXFAM.

Despite the camps' isolated environment, there is a well-established system for purchase, transport and delivery of these food items to support the Sahrawi refugees.



Women at a WFP food distribution in the Sahrawi Refugee camp in Laayoune. Photo: WFP/Katharina Meyer-Seipp