



World Food Programme

Decision Memorandum

To:	Mr. Jim Harvey Chief of Staff, OED	Date: 15 February 2017
Through:	Mr. Ramiro Lopes da Silva Assistant Executive Director, OS	
	Ms. Erika Jorgensen Director Budget and Programming Division, RMB	
From:	Ms. Denise Brown Director of Emergencies, OSE	

Subject:	Sri Lanka request for funds allocation from the Immediate Response Account (IRA) for Specific Preparedness Activities in Sri Lanka
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Issue

The purpose of this memorandum is to request your approval for an allocation of **US\$ 201,481** to support specific preparedness activities in Sri Lanka.

Background

Sri Lanka is a rice dependent country. Two thirds of domestic supply is produced during the "Maha" season from September to March. However, according to an initial assessment carried out by WFP in December 2016, due to drought conditions and water scarcity, this year only about 60 percent of the paddy land has been brought under the Maha cultivation.

Out of the total planted areas, 9 percent of the paddy fields will not yield any crop and a further 12 percent are estimated to yield less than half of the normal production.

It is estimated that approximately 480,000 people across the country are at risk of becoming food or income insecure due to severe drought, which has reduced two cropping seasons and has increased indebtedness of farmers.

Between mid-December 2016 and January 2017, the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Disaster Management of the Government of Sri Lanka sent to WFP three requests for an expansion of the resilience building through Food Assistance for Assets programme under the country programme to cover four additional severely affected districts. The Government of Sri Lanka also requested capacity and technical support to continuously monitor and assess the impact of the drought on household food security and to plan the response to a large scale emergency.

To strengthen the preparedness and readiness of WFP to support the Government of Sri Lanka to effectively respond to the drought and to provide continuous analysis of the livelihood and food security impact, WFP Sri Lanka requires immediate funding to assist in accomplishing the following activities:



1. Prepare a joint action plan with the Government of Sri Lanka for effectively responding to the drought;
2. Undertake a joint household assessment and carry out continuous monitoring to determine livelihood and food security impacts of the drought;
3. Initiate the set up of a national vulnerability analysis system using mVAM techniques to monitor and assess the impact of the drought throughout 2017;
4. Establish three satellite offices in hard-hit areas where WFP is not presently operational to help the government with the coordination and monitoring of the drought response.

The duration of this project will be 3 months (20 February – 20 May 2017). The detailed request 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\$ 201,481**, including ISC, be approved to support these specific preparedness activities. Currently there is a balance of US\$ 5,700,000.00 in the IRA account for Specific Disaster Preparedness Activities.

Decision by the Chief of Staff, OED:

Approve: _____

Disapprove: _____

Discuss with me: _____

Date: _____