

# Immediate Response Account (IRA) Update

## IRA provides urgent food assistance to most vulnerable Somalis

Persistent droughts and conflict continue to pose serious threats to the food security and nutrition situation of 3.2 million people in Somalia. The impact of the drought has spread across the country, forcing over 700,000 people to move away from their homes and into areas where they can find food. It has also severely affected livelihoods, depriving pastoralists and farmers of income to support their families.

In response to the growing needs of more than 3 million vulnerable people in Somalia, WFP has scaled up its operations, targeting areas with the highest number of people who need life-saving food and nutrition assistance.

To boost WFP's response, the IRA has allocated USD 21.5 million in 2017 (including USD 16.5 million from May to June) to provide immediate food and nutrition for drought-affected families. This injection of funding was critical to avoid an interruption of support for those people whom WFP assists in Somalia. The IRA allocation has enabled WFP to purchase 4,110 metric tonnes of specialised nutritious food for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition in more than one million mothers and children across Somalia.

The IRA fund has also enabled WFP Somalia to reach some 500,000 people with a combination of cash-based transfers and in-kind, life-saving food assistance.

WFP's response is critical to stave off famine and meet the urgent food needs of men, women and children who were pushed into hunger and malnutrition by recurring droughts and insecurity. This year, WFP plans to reach 3.4 million people in Somalia through cash-based transfers, in-kind food distributions, and nutritional support for mothers and children. Where possible, WFP will start providing support to help families transition to recovery and help them cope better with droughts, conflict and other emergencies.

**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'). The account revolved funds 22 times up to the end of June.

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### IRA 2017 Donors<sup>1</sup>

Donor	USD <sup>1</sup>
Switzerland	5,958,292
Belgium	5,370,569
Canada	4,460,966
Sweden	4,000,000
Ireland	3,846,994
Germany	1,700,680
Luxembourg	530,786
Liechtenstein	97,560
France	67,763
Norway	4,457

### IRA 2017

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

Recipient	USD
Somalia	21,500,000
Niger	7,943,925
Tanzania	5,800,000
Uganda	3,280,373
Malawi	2,362,861
Palestine	1,978,000
Rwanda	1,869,158
Congo	1,652,392
Algeria	1,458,952
Burkina Faso	1,401,869
Central African Republic	1,401,869
Kenya	1,395,292
Angola	1,394,787
Senegal	1,028,037
Zimbabwe	934,579
Mozambique	925,282
Philippines	467,290
Peru	278,335
Sri Lanka	188,300

**2. Total of all allocations** **57,261,301**



Sacdiya Mohamed Noor sits with her one-year-old son in her makeshift kitchen in Kabasa IDP camp, Somalia. Photo: WFP/Georgina Goodwin

<sup>1</sup> As of 30 June 2017, and does not include ISC.



## Saving and Changing Lives — with IRA funds

### PALESTINE

About one third of Palestinians are food insecure. The situation is worse in Gaza, which hosts 60 percent of Palestine's population. Recurrent violence, restrictions on movement and economic stagnation in Gaza and the West Bank contribute to lack of access to sufficient food among Palestinians.

WFP works with the Palestinian Authorities, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to provide the most vulnerable people with a multi-purpose voucher card. This card allows families to access various services and goods, including food.

During 2017, WFP enhanced its emergency preparedness activities in Gaza. UN Agencies and non-governmental organizations developed contingency plans and standard operating procedures for joint and coordinated action in emergencies.

Earlier this year, the IRA allocated almost USD 2 million to improve access to food and improve nutrition among Palestinians. Special focus was given to expand nutrition education and cash-based transfers support to households led by women and those in vulnerable circumstances.

### RWANDA

Rwanda hosts refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Burundi in six camps across the country. Rwandan refugees returning home also live near the camps with their children, who often attend the same schools and receive the same services as refugees from DRC and Burundi.

Refugees living in the camps in Rwanda depend entirely on assistance to meet their food needs, as they have limited access to employment and livelihood activities. Due to recent significant funding shortfalls, WFP allocated IRA funds to support these activities to prevent any interruptions in food assistance for these people.

WFP's support is provided through in-kind food distributions and cash-based transfers (CBTs), which enable refugees to purchase food of their choice at local markets.

The assistance to refugees and returnees in the country has been formulated in consultation with the Government of Rwanda, UN agencies in the country and the people assisted.

### ANGOLA

The former peaceful Kasai Region of DRC has experienced worsening violence since mid-2016. The conflict has displaced 1.3 million people and led tens of thousands to flee to the northern provinces of Angola.

WFP launched an immediate response emergency operation to respond to the food needs of the people crossing the border to Angola.

WFP allocated US\$1.4 million from the IRA account to kick-start its assistance to vulnerable, conflict-affected communities. WFP also used these resources to conduct assessments and establish a logistics capacity in Kasai. As the conflict is escalating, further funding beyond IRA allocations will be necessary to stage an adequate humanitarian response.

The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, has also increased the frequency of flights to Kasai, to support the humanitarian community as a whole.



Gasarenda market near the Kigeme Refugee camp in Rwanda. Photo: WFP/Rein Skullerud