

**Proforma for requesting an IRA allocation for preparedness activities**

To:	Chief, Organization Budgeting Service (RMBB)	Date:	August 20, 2017
From:	Mageed Yahia Country Director, Jordan		

Subject:	Request for funds allocation from the Immediate Response Account (IRA) for Special Preparedness Activity in Jordan regarding the berm scale up operation
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**PART 1: INFORMATION NOTE****RATIONALE:****Local context and food security situation**

WFP has been operating in Jordan since 1964.

With the Syrian conflict nearing its seventh year, millions have fled Syria seeking refuge in neighbouring countries, in what many now consider to be the worst humanitarian crisis of our time. Over two million of those registered with UNHCR across the region are women and girls. The magnitude of the crisis was reflected by the unprecedented donor response at the 2016 Supporting Syria and the Region Conference in London, and the subsequent conference in Brussels in 2017.

Countries neighbouring Syria have taken on a huge amount of the burden. As of August 6 2017, there are 660,582 registered Syrian refugees in Jordan. According to UNHCR population figures, around 79 percent of those live in host communities, with only 21 percent settling in the formal refugee camps established in the country. For years, Jordan has struggled with the additional strain this increase in population has caused to its already stretched national public services such as education, health, water supply, and rubbish disposal.

In addition to those Syrians who have taken refuge inside Jordan, additional Syrians seeking resettlement are stranded at the north-eastern border area of Syria, known as the Berm. The number of Syrians stranded at the Berm seeking access to international protection is estimated at 45,000. Syrians at the border wait for many months to access Jordan, in harsh conditions and with limited humanitarian assistance. Following a security incident in June 2016 at the border, opportunities for this population to resettle in Jordan became extremely limited. People continue to be stranded and the area has been declared as a military zone by the Jordanian authorities. The international community

cc:  
Regional Director, [Regional Bureau],  
Chief, OMEP  
Director, OSZ  
Chief, RMBP  
Chief, RMBB

continues to advocate for the timely admission of Syrians at the border-established facilities into Jordan where their basic needs can be met with dignity and their right to protection maintained.

In early March 2016, WFP began leading the implementation of food assistance at the Berm. Staff began distributing food parcels to tens of thousands of Syrians at the Berm, who were waiting to be granted access to the country. Two distribution cycles sufficient to cover monthly food requirements included parcels composed of tinned vegetables, beans, chickpeas, biscuits, dates, jam, tea and sugar, as well as fresh fruits and vegetables including cucumbers, oranges, and apples.

While distributions were planned to be undertaken on a monthly basis, following the security incident in June 2016, distributions were temporarily suspended. Security clearances were granted in August 2016 for a 2-day distribution at Rukban and a 1-day distribution at Hadalat. Upon examining all the options it was determined that the most efficient means to provide life-saving food in the limited timeframe was by using cranes. For the first time in WFP's history, two 70 metre cranes were used to deliver food assistance to over 78,000 people. The food was complemented with fresh bread and non-food items from other agencies.

Due to the continuation of the unstable security situation in Syria, the most recent distribution cycle for food and non-food items in both Rukban and Hadalat took place in June 2017 for the Rukhban settlement (40,000 people) and December 2016 for the Hadalat settlement (5,000 people). At that time, no direct access to the displaced population was feasible due to the security situation and food was distributed via a third party contractor in coordination with WFP. The ration included core commodities comprised of rice, lentils, wheat flour, bulgur, white beans, sugar, vegetable oil and salt. This distribution was enough assistance to last for one month.

The rapidly changing situation in South West Syria is changing the context in the North-Eastern border of Jordan, where the Berm is located. The Government of Syria forces are likely to advance from the West in a scenario where Hadalat and Rukban will start to be sandwiched until the GoS forces retake control of the whole area up to the Jordanian border.

The GoS (through various affiliated groups) has already established a corridor from Damascus to the Iraqi border cutting the Berm area thus controlling the flow of people and goods to the Berm. There are reports of people trying to flee north being arrested, detained or worse. A recent agreement between the GoS and Berm leaders would allow for the safe passage of some 5,000 - 7,000 people to return to Homs. However, these negotiated returns could leave the most vulnerable populations behind in an increasingly hostile environment. While people could previously purchase essential items in the markets which emerged in the area (from savings or remittances), markets may no longer be provisioned and prices may skyrocket. Moreover, given the presence of diversely-affiliated militias at the Berm, pro-Government militias fighting is likely to erupt. Donor intelligence suggest a potential attack in early September.

At the same time, the Jordanian Armed Forces has built a 'new Berm' on the Jordanian side of Rukhban. While its purpose is not clear it may indicate an intention to keep part of the Berm population there either as a transit center before onward movement or for a longer period.



1. Review the current emergency context, design the contingency plan and strengthen linkages and coordination mechanisms with Government, UN agencies and NGO's; it will include all assessments.
2. To conduct assessments and identify the most appropriate food assistance intervention in coordination with UNHCR and other agencies.
3. To organize SSAFE training provided by WFP in Amman to 25 staff representing the first and second waves of deployment including provision of security and communication equipment to staff members.
4. To pre-positioned logistics and IT equipment in the sub-office in an event of staff augmentation to fit the operational requirements.

The following activities will be implemented based on IRA Preparedness allocation:

- 1- One WFP experience staff to develop WFP emergency preparedness plan for the various scenarios in close coordination with the UN agencies and contribute to the inter-agencies contingency plan.
- 2- Design and coordinate an emergency needs assessment methodology and integrate protection elements.
- 3- Identify the food ration to be distributed and the potential cooperatives partners.
- 4- Design, set-up and coordinate the initial operational response.
- 5- Design the monitoring system of the emergency response in coordination with UNHCR responsible of the registration process and the other agencies involved.
- 6- Finalize the list of critical equipment to accommodate the response team and enhance the operational response in the field of activity.
- 7- Organize briefings for staff to be potentially deployed (different scenarios, likely operational strategy and distribution set-up, coordination mechanisms, etc).
- 8- Set up an operational center in area of response
- 9- To explore potential funding, coordination and partnership arrangements to implement immediate and full- scale emergency response

**IRA AMOUNT REQUESTED: US\$ 299, 421**

**DURATION OF THE ACTIVITY:** [3 months] 20 August 2017- 19 November 2017

**JUSTIFICATION:**

In order to prepare for the operational scale-up, the organizational structure and resources amending and additional preparatory activities will be required.

Scaling up will require some significant changes to the current operation in Jordan. WFP must prepare to ensure that, when the anticipated large contributions are confirmed, WFP delivers high quality programming without delay.

Preparation phase funding will enable WFP Jordan to meet the programmatic and administrative demands of expanding the operation to the projected beneficiary numbers, specifically:

Strengthen M&E capacity using internal and commercial expertise to revise vulnerability criteria and design improved assessment and targeting processes to can cope with the scale of operation;

Establish groundwork for the setup of an operational presence covering the locations of beneficiary populations, including identification of additional Cooperating Partners;

Obtain Human Resources support to revise the staffing structure.

The benefits of this preparation in the investment outlined above will in any case improve the quality of WFP's programme.

## PART 2: DETAILED BUDGET

Attach the budget estimate using the standard SO Project Budget Plan Format.

	Value US\$	% overall Budget	% of DOC
<b>Direct Support Costs (DSC)</b>	\$279,832	93%	0%
<b>Total WFP direct project costs (US\$)</b>	<b>\$279,832</b>	<b>93%</b>	
Indirect Support Costs (ISC) 7%	\$19,588	7%	
<b>TOTAL WFP COSTS</b>	<b>\$299,421</b>	<b>100%</b>	