



World Food Programme

Memorandum

Proforma for requesting an IRA allocation for preparedness activities

To:	Mr Calum Gardner Chief, Organization Budgeting Service (RMBB)	Date:	25 May 2018
Through:	Ms Sheila Grudem Director of Emergency Preparedness and Response		
From:	Jean-Martin BAUER Country Director, Republic of Congo		

Subject:	Request for funds allocation from the Immediate Response Account (IRA) for Ebola outbreak Preparedness in Republic of Congo
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PART 1: INFORMATION NOTE

RATIONALE:

Location: Departments of Likouala, Plateaux and Cuvette; Entry points identified: Liranga (Likouala department), Makotipoko, Mpouya (Plateaux) and all the villages bordering the Congo river from Betou to Brazzaville.

Cause:

On May 8th, 2018, health authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo declared the country's a 9th outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD). On May 3rd, the Bikoro health zone, in the Equator provincial division of the DRC, reported twenty-one (21) cases of fever with hemorrhagic signs and seventeen (17) community deaths over the past five weeks. All cases came from the catchment area of the Ikoko-Impenge health facility, located 30 km from the central health zone office of Bikoro, which is 280 km by road from Mbandaka, the capital of Equateur province. A response to the DRC Ebola outbreak is currently taking place under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, WHO, MSF and other partners. As of May 25th, authorities reported that EVD had spread to the city of Mbandaka, a regional transport hub, signaling a heightened level of risk for countries of the region.

Indeed; the province of Equateur in DRC is just across the river from the departments of Likouala and of Cuvette, in Republic of Congo (RoC).

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

Frequent cross-river movements occur between villages along the river on the DRC and RoC because of social and economic ties. Because of the sustained and frequent population movements across the river border, the risk of spread of this epidemic from DRC in the Republic of Congo is high.

RoC itself has experienced a total of four EVD outbreaks, with the epicenter being in the department of the western Cuvette.

The government of the Republic of Congo has recognized that immediate preparedness actions are needed, and the national EVD contingency plan was updated in May with WHO support. The government has made public statements to inform the public and has also organized a coordination committee led by the Ministry of Health.

WFP RoC has participated in a government-led interagency preparedness assessment to the at-risk Likouala, Plateaux and Cuvette departments that began May 17th. The needs outlined in this IR PREP were identified during this assessment, and were discussed with the Ministry of Health and WHO.

The assessment has shown that the at-risk area is extremely remote. Roads are almost non-existent or impassable, ferries for crossing the multiple rivers are unreliable and the river transport capacity is very limited. Facilities for air transportation are limited. The assessment also confirmed that existing infrastructures are very poor, the communication network is unreliable and no storage facilities are available in the area. In most localities, network coverage and electricity are unstable, thus posing significant challenges to intervention and coordination.

Agencies leading the preparedness efforts are looking to WFP for support in the field. WFP has already been providing logistics support to UN partners preparing the response in the area, including WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR and UNFPA. In particular, WFP has been facilitating the prepositioning of medical equipment in the area of Liranga, as well as the transport of qualified health personnel to and from villages along the river. Sustained efforts are also being made to build awareness of local populations and train local staff. At the moment, WFP relies on boats and facilities usually dedicated to delivering assistance to refugee population in the region (managed by the Bétou sub-office, in northern Likouala district).

Therefore, this IR-PREP aims at taking initial steps to enhance supply chain and ICT readiness, and prepare for the eventuality of the spread of EVD from DRC to RoC.

IRA AMOUNT REQUESTED: USD 299,368

The joint government and WHO response plan is attracting significant donor interest. Thus far, \$40M have been pledged out of \$57M, however at this stage, most of the funding is going directly into the response in DRC with limited opportunities for preparedness activities.

DURATION OF THE ACTIVITY: June 01,2018 – August 31,2018

JUSTIFICATION:

Under the IR-PREP WFP will:

- a. Enhance WFP's existing local river transport capacity by acquiring one passenger boat. This will support ongoing assessment missions reach remote areas, particularly by health partners to quick access to remote areas.
- b. Augment the current fleet of small barges to facilitate the repositioning of equipment and supplies to community care centres within the Likouala and Plateaux departments.
- c. Expand the current storage capacity of WFP RoC in the at-risk areas to allow an adequate storage of both food and NFIs. WFP will set up common temporary warehousing facilities, 4 wiikhalls (2 in Liranga, one in Loukolela and one in Impfondo).
- d. Lead an ICT assessment in order to better assess IT services and equipment and gaps that would need to be filled in case of an emergency.
- e. Enhance the current ICT equipment and communication material (additional thurayas and handsets + generator) to allow basic communication during the current preparedness phase.
- f. Ensure staffing is in place to support ongoing assessment and coordination activities. WFP will hire a supply chain consultant and a local assistant. WFP is being called on to lead the supply chain coordination group.

The IR PREP is needed to provide resources to help the CO meet the demand from government and partners for supply chain and IT support. It is expected this IR-PREP will help set up supply chain/ICT coordination structure capable of assisting humanitarian partners in providing relief assistance; enhance to a readiness stage; ensure and preserve WFP leadership in Supply chain and ICT coordination and management.

Therefore, this IR-PREP will:

- Facilitate transport of humanitarian and medical personnel to ensure regular assessment and monitoring activities through the acquisition of one passenger boat.
- Augment the WFP barge fleet by purchasing 5 small barges to support the repositioning of medical equipment, food, NFIs and ICT equipment
- Enhance the current storage capacities by purchasing 4 additional wiikhalls
- Ensure an IT assessment of the at-risk area takes place
- Ensure staffing is in place for coordination and assessment work

The project will be managed as follows:

- The CD will act as the fund manager for this IRA while the head of finance will undertake funds allotment operations
- Coordination of the operation shall be under the responsibility of a supply chain officer, who will report to the DCD

PART 2: DETAILED BUDGET

Fund Centre:	CGCO
Functional Area:	EMOP
Project Number:	201126
Project Start Date:	01-Jun-18
Project End Date:	31-Aug-18
Duration (months):	3

<i>Capacity Development & Augmentation Tool</i>		Value (US\$)	
Total Capacity Development & Augmentation Tool costs		\$243,916	81%
% of overall Capacity Development & Augmentation costs (DSC and ISC included) over Total project costs			100%
	Number of Beneficiaries ^{1/}	Value (US\$)	DSC as % DOC
Total Costs	-		
Total Direct Operating Costs (DOC)		\$243,916	
Direct Support Cost (DSC)		\$35,868	14.70% 12%
Total WFP direct project costs (US\$)		\$279,783	
Indirect Support Costs (ISC) 7%		\$19,585	7%
TOTAL WFP COSTS		\$299,368	100% 100%