



World Food Programme

Memorandum

Proforma for requesting an IRA allocation for preparedness activities

To: Chief, Organization Budgeting Service (RMBB) Date: 08 March, 2018

From: Mr. Miguel Barreto
Regional Director, Panama

Subject: Immediate Response Account (IRA) Funding Request for Special Preparedness Activities in Support of Migrants from Venezuela

PART 1: INFORMATION NOTE

The purpose of this memorandum is to request your approval for an allocation of **US\$ 299,968** to support specific preparedness activities at the regional level for countries affected by the Venezuela migrants' influx.

RATIONALE:

Venezuelans are experiencing serious hardship as a result of the political, institutional and socio-economic situation. This situation is now aggravated due to sanctions imposed by the US and the EU. Oil accounts for 95 percent of Venezuela's export revenues and was used to finance the government's social protection programmes. The Government has put in place several food-based safety nets but the supply of food to these programmes is irregular, some are barely functional and others have yet to be implemented. The Government of Venezuela is unlikely to request international humanitarian assistance to deal with what they call an economic crisis.

As a result of this situation, an estimated 4 million people (10 percent of Venezuela's population) have left the country. Countries bordering Venezuela and beyond are now facing serious challenges in dealing with the number of Venezuelan migrants. Colombia is the most impacted with over one million people crossing into the country, mostly during 2017. Many of these arrivals remained in Colombia, largely along border areas, but also in urban areas such as Bogota, Medellin and Cali. The majority of Venezuelans outside the country have no legal status or are considered economic migrants.

WFP Colombia carried out a needs assessment in 2017 which highlighted the precarious food and nutrition security situation of migrants (Venezuelans, Colombians and mixed families). Almost 80% of those interviewed were highly food insecure and living in informal settlements. Their dependence on informal and illegal livelihoods is creating instability and is a threat to peace building efforts. The Government of Colombia has

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

announced that the country needs international assistance to cope with this influx of migrants and requested the UN (WFP, WHO, UNHCR, IOM) to prepare a response plan to assist Venezuelans at the border and in transit.

WFP has been providing food assistance to limited numbers of Venezuela migrants in Colombia and Ecuador but resources to address the needs of increasingly high numbers of people are scarce. WFP has had little to no engagement with partners in other countries where we have no presence and information is urgently required on the situation of Venezuela migrants in those countries.

IRA AMOUNT REQUESTED: US\$ 299,968

DURATION OF THE ACTIVITY: three months (7 March 2018 – 6 June 2018)

JUSTIFICATION:

WFP has no presence in Venezuela and no access to provide assistance in the country as the Government has not requested it. WFP has, on several occasions, offered to provide some support but the Government has not, to date, accepted the offer. However, due to the sharp deterioration of the food security situation in the country and the high number of Venezuelans leaving the country in search of better living conditions, the WFP Regional Bureau plans to further strengthen its preparedness for a possible response.

This IR PREP request will reinforce WFP Colombia's capacity to contribute to the UN response plan requested by the Government. Governments or other UN agencies, including those countries where WFP has a presence (Ecuador and Peru) and those countries where we have no presence, for instance northern Brazil, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba and Curacao, will also assess other border countries in case of requests. This coordination will be managed by Panama.

Activity 1: staffing augmentation to strengthen emergency preparedness capacity

Two international senior consultants will be recruited: one based in Bogota and one in Panama to deal with the overall coordination of the preparedness actions for a possible response with the aim of drafting an operational response plan. The senior consultant in Bogota will liaise with the Colombian authorities at central and local level to prepare the WFP inputs to the joint UN response plan requested by the Government. The consultant will be assisted by a junior consultant. This team will be responsible to support the CO to liaise with UN, government and donors in Bogota, and other actors, including non-governmental organizations on all issues related to the Venezuela migrants.

The consultant based in Panama will liaise with regional humanitarian actors in the regional hub and engage with partners in non-presence countries. S/he will also support the Colombia senior consultant in case of need.

WFP is also planning to base a consultant in Venezuela, embedded in a UNHCR sub-office, to assess the situation and explore possibilities for a possible response plan inside Venezuela should the situation permit a full WFP deployment.

National consultants and TDYs will reinforce the staffing capacity in Colombia and will be sent for an initial period to three border areas in Colombia (Arauca, La Guajira and Norte de Santander) to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacities at local level.

Travels are also included for RB mission(s) to support the initial deployments, and for required expertise (such as nutrition, cash-based transfer, VAM and monitoring, supply chain, donor relations, etc.) as required. Visits, WFP-only or joint with other United Nations agencies and/or governmental authorities, to other presence and non-presence countries bordering Venezuela, in particular Brazil, are also anticipated.

Through the RB consultant, existing RB capacities and the consultants deployed to Colombia, WFP will also develop an operations plan for assisting Venezuelans in neighbouring countries with the aim of them returning home with this assistance. Before acting on such plans, WFP would have to ensure buy in from national governments and UNCTs of neighbouring countries.

PART 2: DETAILED BUDGET

The implementation of the preparedness actions takes into consideration the costs of 11 consultants and TDYs for three months, the travel costs, office and installation costs, as well as the recurring expenses for those staff.

As per the detailed budget attached, the proposed budget falls under the CSP activity 1: "staffing augmentation to strengthen emergency preparedness capacity". The IR-PREP funds requested are only for preparedness and analysis and not for the transfers, nor response.

ISC is included to the total amount of 299,968 US\$.

The detailed budget for preparedness activities is attached. A worksheet with budget calculation has also been included.