



World Food Programme

Memorandum

Proforma for requesting an IRA allocation for preparedness activities

To: Mr. Calum Gardner,
Chief, Organization Budgeting Service
(RMBB)

Date: 16th May 2018

From: Mr. David Kaatrud
Regional Director, [RBB]

Subject: Request for funds allocation from the Immediate Response Account (IRA) for Special Preparedness Activity

PART 1: INFORMATION NOTE

RATIONALE:

Mongolia is highly vulnerable to climate change. Crop production is almost entirely non-irrigated and a high percentage of households depend on livestock herding as their primary livelihood. Every winter Mongolia faces the risk of dzud, which refers to a set of winter conditions that lead to extreme livestock mortality. The frequency and magnitude of dzuds have increased due to overgrazing and climate change. An estimated 10 million animals perished in 1999-2002 as a result of harsh winters which followed a drought, accounting for about 30% of the national stocks. In 2010, approximately nine million animals perished during the dzud – 20% of the total national livestock - and an estimated 75,000 households lost half or more of their herd, while 12,000 households lost their entire herd.

Migration to urban areas, in particular the capital, Ulaanbaatar, is the common response. Between 1998 and 2003, an estimated 180,000 people migrated to Ulaanbaatar having lost their livelihood to the severe winter conditions. It is estimated that another 30,000 herder households migrated to Ulaanbaatar following the 2010 dzud. Herders arrived with their ger and settled in the outskirts of the city in unplanned areas without infrastructure and services.

Almost half of the population of Mongolia (3 million) live in Ulaanbataar, where also most of the poor can be found. In 2016, approximately 350,000 of the 1.4 million inhabitants of Ulaanbaatar were living below the poverty line. The urban poor suffer from high unemployment, leaving many dependent on government social safety nets which are not designed to support the influx from the countryside following a dzud.

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

In the absence of early warning systems, government and agencies rely on assessments to formulate a response. As such, the response is reactive and comes often late to prevent livelihoods collapsing. The main objective of WFP's special preparedness activity is to provide early warning and real-time information on the food security and livelihood impacts of dzud and other climatic events for enhanced social protection. The purpose of the IR-PREP is to provide seed money to initiate WFP's technical support that will consist of three components:

1. *Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM)* - a national phone survey-based monitoring platform that will collect information from rural households, delivering data representative at the Sum (or if possible Bagh) administrative level. Data collection will focus on food consumption and supplies, nutrition and health indicators, socio-economic status, livelihood coping and livestock conditions.
2. *Establishment of a Platform for Realtime Impact Situation Monitoring (PRISM)* - a climate impact surveillance and early warning system that fuses satellite data with population, community and household survey data. The PRISM uses mobile technology to provide integrated visualizations of the extent of drought and/or dzud-affected areas, identify areas/populations most at risk and potential impacts on their livelihoods, and inform planning of targeted responses. The platform can also be used to disseminate early warning to at-risk-populations through integration with mVAM.
3. *Explore options for enhanced and shock-responsive social protection* - Dzud and climate impacted households tend to migrate to urban areas as a last resort where they survive in suburban ger lands. The Food Stamp Program, which provides food vouchers that can be redeemed in local stores, is specifically targeted to poor households using a proxy-means test. However, the Food Stamp Programme coverage and benefits are limited. It also does not have an adaptive capacity to respond to shocks and temporarily include and provide essential food assistance to poor households who have lost their livelihoods and productive assets. This component will provide technical support in the form of beneficiary registration, voucher redemption, monitoring and financing solutions. It will explore how the food stamp program could be enhanced toward a more inclusive and shock-responsive safety net and used for providing essential food assistance to disaster impacted poor households.

IRA AMOUNT REQUESTED: US\$199,000

The request for IRA funds has 2 objectives: i. essential preparedness for the 2018/19 dzud winter season, and ii. Initial seed funding for WFP support to the Government of Mongolia to achieve zero hunger.

DURATION OF THE ACTIVITY: [1st August 2018 to 31st October 2018]

The IR-PREP is from August – October 2018 in preparation for the 2018 dzud risk winter season.

JUSTIFICATION:

WFP has no operational presence in Mongolia. The project will be implemented pioneering WFP's alternate presence model. This model was first used in the Asia region for Papua New Guinea (PNG) where WFP is successfully implementing a partnership project using

digital technology and mobile phone surveys to assess and track the food security situation in rural areas of PNG.

Activities in Mongolia will be overseen and implemented with oversight from the WFP regional bureau in Bangkok. A key challenge includes setting up successful partnership arrangements with agencies such as FAO, Mercy Corps and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). WFP can however build on global expertise from the mVAM project (see: www.wfp.org/mVAM) and shock-based social protection systems in general with cash based transfer mechanism specifically. WFP will work closely with regional UN partners, including OCHA and FAO, including FAO's country office in Mongolia. An effective and close partnership on PRISM already exists with the UN Pulse Lab in Jakarta.

PART 2: DETAILED BUDGET

Cost Categories	2018
Transfer Value	\$ -
Transfer Costs	\$ -
Implementation Costs	\$ 186,854
Adjusted DSC	\$ -
WFP Direct Costs	\$ 186,854
ISC	\$ 12,146
TOTAL	\$ 199,000