



**World Food Programme**

## Decision Memorandum

To:	Mr. Amir Abdulla Deputy Executive Director	Date: 17 October 2018
Through:	Mrs. Valerie Guarnieri Assistant Executive Director, OS	
	Mr. Sean O'Brien Director Budget and Programming Division, RMB	
From:	Mrs. Margot van der Velden Director of Emergencies, OSE	

Subject:	Request for the allocation of funds under the Immediate Response Account (IRA) for preparedness activities in the Caribbean (RBP).
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### Issue

The purpose of this memorandum is to request your approval for an allocation of **USD 300,000** to support specific preparedness activities for the hurricane season in the Caribbean.

### Background

With the opening of the Barbados Office and an increased WFP engagement in the Caribbean, expectations of WFP by a variety of actors have further increased. The experience of Tropical Storms Beryl, Isaac and Kirk in 2018 have exposed the dilemma of WFP in the sub-region. While WFP Barbados and RBP are resourced to strengthen capacities and provide technical assistance in general prior to shocks occurring, it is not designed to respond as this was always envisioned to be managed through separate EMOPs/LEOs in the event of a large-scale emergency requiring international assistance. This leaves a significant gap in the short term of responding to shocks that require support to national authorities by CDEMA and through specific WFP technical assistance. It has also exposed gaps in the ability of WFP to provide specific preparedness and readiness support for pending individual events based on early warning indicators, such as the development of storms

The hurricane season lasts until 30 November and with the 2017 season having been the costliest Atlantic hurricane season ever, the levels of vulnerability of several islands remains higher than normal with reduced capacities of national governments due to fiscal constraints and an emphasis on recovery and reconstruction from last years damages.

The development of the season over the course of September raised the level of concern with levels of preparedness and with conditions proving more conducive to storm development, specific preparedness measures are required. In addition to limitations in Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency's (CDEMA) operational capacities to manage a regional response, country level capacities are also a concern in a number of the smaller islands.



In order for WFP to be able to adequately support CDEMA and the governments of its' participating states to proactively and effectively respond to storms during the remainder of the 2018 hurricane season, the Regional Bureau Panama applied for an IR PREP to:

1. Strengthen the capacity of WFP to proactively and safely deploy in the face of emergencies.
2. Ensure adequate logistics capacity to respond to shocks that don't immediately require a large scale international response.

The duration of this project will be 3 months (21 October 2018 – 20 January 2019) and the total amount requested is USD 300,000.

### **Recommendation**

In view of the above and having verified that the request conforms to relevant rules of the IRA Directive, the proposed preparedness measures are considered appropriate and necessary.

It is therefore recommended that an allocation of USD 300,000, including ISC, be approved to support the above mentioned specific preparedness activities for the hurricane season in the Caribbean. Currently there is a balance of USD 841,798 in the IRA account for Specific Disaster Preparedness Activities.

Decision by the Deputy Executive Director, DED:

Approve: \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove: \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss with me: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_