



World Food Programme

Decision Memorandum

To:	Mr. Amir Abdulla Deputy Executive Director	Date: 28 May 2018
Through:	Ms. Valerie Guarnieri Assistant Executive Director, OS	
	Mr. Sean O'Brien Director Budget and Programming Division, RMB	
From:	Ms. Sheila Grudem Deputy Director of Emergencies, OSE	

Subject:	Republic of Congo Country Office request for funds allocation from the Immediate Response Account (IRA) for preparedness activities for the DRC Ebola outbreak.
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Issue

The purpose of this memorandum is to request your approval for an allocation of **USD 299,368** to support specific preparedness activities in the Republic of Congo (RoC).

Background

On May 8th 2018, a 9th epidemic of Ebola virus disease (EVD) was declared by the health authorities of DR Congo.

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.

The province of Equateur in DRC is just across the river from the departments of Likouala and Cuvette in the Republic of Congo and frequent cross-river movements occur between villages along the river on the DRC and RoC because of social and economic ties.

WFP RoC has already contributed in a government-led interagency preparedness assessment to the at-risk Likouala, Plateaux and Cuvette departments.

The assessment confirmed that existing infrastructures are very poor, the communication network is unreliable and no storage facilities are available.

This IR PREP therefore 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.



In order to be ready to respond in case of a further spread of the EVD from DRC into Roc, this IR PREP will contribute to:

1. Enhance WFP's existing local river transport capacity;
2. Augment the current fleet of small barges to facilitate the repositioning of equipment and supplies;
3. Expand the current storage capacity by setting up 4 Mobile Storage Units;
4. Conduct an ICT assessment;
5. Enhance the current ICT equipment and communication material;
6. Ensure that staff is in place to support ongoing assessment and coordination activities.

The duration of this project will be 3 months (01 June – 31 August 2018) and the total amount requested is **USD 299,368**.

Recommendation

In view of the above and having verified that the request conforms to relevant rules and that the proposed preparedness measures are considered appropriate and necessary, it is recommended that an allocation of USD 299,368, including ISC, be approved to support these specific preparedness activities. Currently there is a balance of USD 4,793,880 in the IRA account for Specific Disaster Preparedness Activities.

Decision by the Deputy Executive Director, DED:

Approve: _____

Disapprove: _____

Discuss with me: _____

Date: _____