



Permanent Representation
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the UN Organizations in Rome



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Permanent Mission of Switzerland
to the United Nations organisations in Rome



The Immediate Response Account

Kick-starting an emergency response

Side event on the margins of the annual session of the Executive Board
Tuesday, 27 June 2023, 13:30–14:30
Auditorium, WFP headquarters

A light buffet lunch will be served in the Peace Garden from 13:00–13:30

Context

When a crisis strikes, WFP needs to mobilize quickly to send people food and cash assistance to help them through some of the toughest moments in their lives. The Immediate Response Account (IRA) is WFP's source of immediate and "last resort" emergency funding for critical life-saving activities. WFP uses the IRA to quickly allocate funds for pre-emptive and immediate emergency assistance to "kick start" operations when donor contributions are not yet available or forecasted. It is an indispensable component of WFP's frontline role in the initial response to multiple crises while reinforcing key principles of timeliness, predictability and flexibility.

The operating context of 2023 presents an unprecedented challenge with record famine (and famine-like) conditions complemented by increasing climate and complex crises. After a record level of allocations in 2022, it is anticipated that demand for IRA allocations will exceed USD 500 million in 2023 – *if there is available funding* – to bridge the gap between needs and forecasted contributions.

This side event will illustrate the decision making process for allocating funding within 72 hours of a sudden onset emergency and the impact of immediately available flexible funding. While recognizing the achievements in 2022 – including the record levels of allocations and donor contributions – WFP will outline the challenges currently facing emergency operations in 2023 and 2024.

To provide a richer narrative, this side event coincides with the launch of WFP's 2022 Annual Report on Flexible Funding as well as an art exhibition in the Red lifts foyer to share real stories of how flexible, immediate funding such as the IRA moves risk away from the people we serve. Additionally, participants will use touch screens to sort and view IRA allocations by country, emergency type (i.e. economic, conflict, climate-related, displacement/refugee), etc.

Participants are invited to the Peace Garden for a light buffet lunch from 13.00 to 13.30.

The side event will:

- Simulate the decision making process for an IRA allocation;
- Share experience and impact of an IRA allocation on emergency operations;
- Present value propositions for contributing to the IRA and increasing flexibility of directed contributions; and
- Thank and recognize the IRA's current donor base for their generous support to date.

Agenda

Welcome and introduction

- Mr Carl Skau, WFP Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer

IRA impact – Emergency assistance at scale

- Show the immediate and positive impact of the IRA through a video highlighting key operations which received large injections from the IRA that were essential for averting famine, IPC 5 conditions. Includes recorded clips from several WFP country directors as well as recipients of assistance.
- Address by H.E. Santos Álvaro, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations Organizations in Rome

Donor perspective

- Speakers:
 - Ms Deike Potzel, Director-General for Crisis Prevention, Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Assistance – German Federal Foreign Office
 - Her Excellency Nicole Ruder, Ambassador and Vice-Director Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (via video link)

Q&A*

- Facilitated by Mr Yves Guinand, PhD, Counsellor, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Organizations in Rome

Closing comments

- Mr Carl Skau, WFP Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer

** Should Q&A not require 30 mins, the session will be concluded earlier to allow for bilateral discussions.*

Read more about how flexible funding impacts our operations at:



<https://www.wfp.org/immediate-response-account>