



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



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Permanent Mission of Switzerland
to the United Nations organisations in Rome



World Food
Programme

The Immediate Response Account

Kick-starting an emergency response

Exhibition during the annual session of the Executive Board
On display Thursday, 22 June 2023 – Friday, 7 July 2023
Red lifts foyer, WFP headquarters

Context

When a crisis strikes, WFP needs to mobilise 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.

The exhibition in the red lifts foyer will draw attention to the importance of the IRA and showcase the impact of it through photos, text, and an interactive display by sharing real stories of how flexible funding saves lives of the people we serve. Alongside an Executive Board side event with donors on the IRA, the exhibit will complement by raising awareness to WFP staff, HQ visitors, and Executive Board attendees. Participants will also be able to use a touch screen tablet to sort and view IRA allocations by country, emergency type, and view the achievements of the IRA. The exhibition will be on display the week of the Executive Board and week following.

Objectives

The exhibition will:

- Showcase the impact of an IRA allocation on emergency operations and the people we serve.
- Present value propositions for contributing to the IRA and increasing the flexibility of directed contributions through stories and interactive data and information.
- Raise awareness among WFP staff and visitors of what the IRA is and its impact.

Exhibition details

In the red foyer, there will be photo and text visuals mounted on the large wall to the left of the elevators, and on the pillar in the middle of the foyer. A touch screen tablet will be on a stand on the right side of the wall where participants can view and interact with the content on the screen.



Wall

Round pillar (flat image layout)

Content

The following text will be used in the display:

Left side panel text:

“Cyclone Idai struck Mozambique in 2019, leaving 1.85 million people needing humanitarian assistance. More than 700,000 hectares of crops were washed away before harvest. Other key sources of income, such as livestock and fisheries, were also badly affected. The speed and scale of WFP’s response to the devastation wrought by Cyclone Idai was supported by a US\$40.5 million allocation from WFP’s Immediate Response Account.”

Right side panel text:

“WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LET THE PEOPLE WE SERVE DOWN.

We requested funding from the Immediate Response Account, and we got USD 30 million.

We managed to jump from 1.7 million to 3.5 million [people reached].

If we had not received IRA funding, we would have let the people we serve down.”

El-khidir Daloum, Somalia Country Director

“WFP uses the Immediate Response Account (IRA) to scale-up an emergency response within 72 hours or provide “last resort” funding for life-saving activities. However, funds in the IRA are now at critically low levels. This puts WFP’s ability to provide timely and effective emergency responses at risk, as issuing an appeal and receiving funding can take weeks or months.

Country offices can request IRA funding to provide life-saving assistance in the form of food and/or cash, and other forms of emergency support if other funding is not immediately available. WFP operates under the principle that it is better to act now than risk lives.

WFP has saved hundreds of thousands of lives using IRA funding at the onset of an emergency. Sustainable replenishment of the IRA will ensure the continuation of immediate life-saving activities.”

On the pillar:

Thanks to the Immediate Response Account, Malyun Abdullai received urgent assistance in Somalia.

Read more about how flexible funding impacts our operations at:



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