

**TO:** Laurent Bukera , Chief, ODXP

**DATE:** 22 October 2010

**FROM:** Patrick Teixeira, Officer-In-Charge, The Gambia

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**IMMEDIATE RESPONSE EMERGENCY OPERATION GAMBIA 200213**  
**Assistance to Populations Affected by the Floods in The Gambia**  
**PROJECT DOCUMENT**

**PART 1: INFORMATION NOTE**

**1. NATURE OF EMERGENCY:** Floods caused by heavy rains

**2. Location:** Six regions of The Gambia

**3. Cause and location:**

Heavy rainfall since mid July has resulted in widespread flooding with damage to infrastructure and livelihoods across The Gambia. Most heavily hit areas are Western Region, KMC and Greater Banjul areas, but loss of lives and livelihoods have been reported in other parts of the country as well.

**4. Effects:**

The most critical and far-reaching damage was found to be in the areas of housing and infrastructure. Given the poor construction of houses and the lack of planning for settlement, many houses located in lowland areas or water ways, collapsed partially if not entirely leaving a total of 6,835 persons displaced in the aftermath. The flooding is exacerbated by the poor maintenance and illegal waste disposal, which cause blockages and overflowing of the drainage systems in urban areas, particularly in the Greater Banjul Area, Kanifing Municipality, and Upper River Region.

Concerning water and sanitation, drinking water sources have been flooded and potentially contaminated by run off water. Also, a rise in diarrhoeal diseases, malaria, skin, eye and acute respiratory infections has been recorded whereby some health facilities were found to be short on supplies, reducing their response capacity in case of a disease outbreak. Furthermore, the quality and access to education has been threatened in some cases by occupation of school facilities by displaced persons.

From a food and agriculture perspective, food stocks have been damaged, livestock lost and harvest crops destroyed, often hitting the subsistence farmers in rural farming communities who fully rely on those means as source of food and income. The majority of both rural and urban households have reduced the quantity and frequency of meals while resorting to other coping strategies such as borrowing from neighbours and relying on remittances. They are also in need of additional cash to recover damaged housing and to purchase food given the loss of crops for own consumption in addition to the usual expenses in terms of school fees and health services. This will deteriorate household purchasing power and negatively impact food access.

**5. Total numbers affected and in need of emergency food aid:**

As of 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2010 a total of 34,990 persons are affected including 5,461 children under 5.

Overall, it is estimated that a total of 6,835 persons are displaced (approximately 20% of the affected population) and a total of 6,800 farmers who have lost most of their early harvest crops are in need of immediate food assistance.

A summary is as follows:

**Population affected: 34,990 people**

**Number of displaced people: 6,835**

**Number of affected farmers: 6,800**

**Number of regions affected: 6**

**Emergency response to date:**

With the support and overall coordination by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), local authorities have quickly assessed the situation on the ground and already initiated with the immediate response, distributing food and non-food items in selective districts/wards.

Since the first heavy rains in mid July, the Government has swiftly responded to assist selected households in affected communities, mostly with food items (rice, cooking oil, and sugar.) NGOs have contributed other types of emergency relief items (non-food) as well. As of September, the total value of donated cash and cheques for relief and rehabilitation amounts to approximately 12 million Dalasi, which includes the President's 10 million Dalasi contribution for emergency rice and cooking oil. However, food assistance to date has not reached all affected households identified and recipient households reported that food received will not last for more than a month or two, falling short of actual needs.

Meanwhile, the Government declared a state of National Emergency on September 7, 2010. It then launched an appeal both in country and abroad for additional relief and rehabilitation efforts on the basis of NDMA's preliminary estimate of approximately 21,000 people affected in total that has now been established at 34,990 as of October 21, 2010).

The UN Country Team (UNCT) conducted a rapid joint assessment to determine the needs of people affected by the floods and make an informed decision on the most appropriate type and scale of response. After reviewing the findings and recommendations of the multi-sectoral assessment team, the UNCT agreed to establish an inter-agency Taskforce for formulating a joint UN response to meet the immediate basic needs of the flood affected population. The immediate support by the UN will complement the assistance already provided by the Government and other development partners such as the Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS).

As part of the UNCT humanitarian response, WFP will provide food assistance while water and sanitation support will be provided by UNICEF. WHO will be responsible for a more detailed assessment of health impacts and coordinate with the local health authorities to cover basic health supplies. UNHCR will look at assessing and addressing the immediate shelter needs while FAO will provide emergency relief to rural farming communities who have lost crops and livestock. UNDP will provide funding to support additional assessments including an environmental impact assessment. As part of the UN coordinated humanitarian response, WFP will also provide logistics support for the distribution of non-food items, as needed.

**WFP IR EMOP:**

**Duration of assistance (three months):**

90 days from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010 to 31st January 2011

**Number of beneficiaries and location:**

Emergency assistance will be provided to a total of 6,835 displaced people and a total of 6,800 subsistence farmers in six affected regions of the country. This targeted assistance will consider

2,937 displaced people living in urban areas located in Banjul City Council, Kanifing Municipal Council, and Western Region while the remaining 3,898 displaced persons and 6,800 farmers are living in the Lower River Region, Upper River Region, Central River Region and North Bank region.

WFP's assistance will consist of two components. First, providing food ration for three months to cover the immediate needs of the displaced persons and their families and allow them to resume their livelihoods. The number of displaced persons as reported by NDMA is used as a proxy for most vulnerable households as they lost almost all their properties and require a longer period for recovery and resettlement. A comprehensive list of the affected households has already been prepared by NDMA and support will be provided to these identified households whereby targeting will be fine-tuned based on NDMA's in-depth follow up assessments which are ongoing. Second, providing a two-month ration of rice to affected swamp rice farmers who lost their early crops to meet their immediate food consumption needs until the next crop harvest. The Ministry of Agriculture and FAO are currently finalizing the list of affected farmers and extent of crop damage which will duly inform a more precise targeting of this component.

The assistance to targeted beneficiaries may be adjusted according to the progress made by beneficiary households in terms of livelihood recovery. The main risk factors are as follows: firstly, additional deterioration in the prospects for the 2010 agricultural season, and secondly, delay in livelihood recovery in urban areas due to limited income generating opportunities (e.g. decline in tourism) and lack of critical shelter support.

The food assistance will protect livelihoods and safeguard the already precarious nutritional status of vulnerable groups, particularly women and young children.

#### **Food basket composition and ration levels:**

Monthly general food distribution rations will be provided to the heads of affected households. The family ration will be composed of rice, vegetable oil, pulses, CSB+ and iodized salt.

Commodity	Rice	Pulse	Veg. Oil	CSB+	Salt	Total
Daily ration/person (Grams)	400	65	25	65	5	560

Monthly food ration composed of rice only will be provided to the swamp rice farmers most critically affected by the loss of their rice crops.

Commodity	Rice	Pulse	Veg. Oil	CSB+	Salt	Total
Daily ration/person (Grams)	400	0	0	0	0	400

#### **Total food aid requirements:**

Commodities	Rice	Pulse	Veg. Oil	CSB	Salt	Total
Three months GFD to displaced people Nov 10 – Jan 11 (MT)	246.06	39.98	15.38	39.98	3.08	344.48
Two months limited food ration (rice only) to critically affected farmers Nov- Dec 10 (MT)	163.20	-	-	-	-	120
<b>Total Food needs (MT)</b>	<b>409.26</b>	<b>39.98</b>	<b>15.38</b>	<b>39.98</b>	<b>3.08</b>	<b>507.68</b>

The costs relating to the purchase of the commodities, the associated logistics costs and other

direct operational and support costs amount to **US\$496,086**.

In order to meet these food requirements, additional resources will be necessary seeing that the on-going in-country programmes are already facing serious resource constraints. However, donor authorization will be sought in order to borrow commodities from the WFP in-country stocks as feasible, while procurement is underway. The commodities will be procured within the region or internationally but alternative options (swap with local traders, borrowings from neighbouring countries, etc.) will also be considered where feasible. This will ensure timely provision of food assistance to the beneficiaries.

**Mode of implementation:**

WFP will handle the responsibility for the delivery of commodities from its main warehouses in Kanifing to the regional Extended Delivery Points that will be agreed with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and the regional structures. Storage, handling, distribution and monitoring will be the joint responsibility of WFP and the Office of the Vice-President through the NDMA and the regional disaster management committees. These committees have already been used last year to respond to similar disaster. Based on this experience, the conduction of rapid basic training sessions and on the job training, these committees will have their increased responsibilities with a view to strengthening their capacity to handle this type of disaster.

**The way forward:**

During the implementation of the immediate response, WFP will continue to work with the inter-agency Taskforce established by the UNCT, relevant Government institutions and NGO partners to assess the need for further assistance and assist the Government come up with sustainable mid-term to long term responses if deemed necessary.

**PART 2: EMOP BUDGET (attached)**

Total budget (**US\$496,086**) is attached as Annex 1.

**PART 3: EMOP APPROVAL**

- 1) IRA funding is available to cover EMOP budget

Chief, OMXP: Laurent Bukera, Date: --/--/----

- 2) EMOP is approved

Country Director, The Gambia: Malcolm Duthie, Date: --/--/----

