

Format for Information Note of IR-EMOP Project Document

TO: John Crisci Chief, RMBP	DATE: 23 rd December 2010
FROM: Getachew Diriba Country Director, Liberia	PAGE 1 OF 4
CC: Thomas Yanga, Regional Director, ODD Ramiro Lopes Da Silva, Deputy Executive Director, ER	

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE EMERGENCY OPERATION

Liberia: Request for funds allocation from the Immediate Response Account (IRA) for Liberia IR-EMOP 200227: “Emergency Food Assistance to Ivorian Refugees and Vulnerable Host Population”

PROJECT DOCUMENT

PART 1: INFORMATION NOTE

1. NATURE OF EMERGENCY:

2. Location: The operation will focus in villages within and around the Buutuo and Loguatuo border axis in Nimba County and the vicinity of the Toe Town border crossing in Grand Gedeh County.

3. Cause:

The long delayed presidential election in Cote d’Ivoire, first conducted on 31 October 2010 and followed by a run-off on 28 November 2010, has generated conflicting and hotly disputed results which have deepened the crisis in the country and heightened tension to such a level that spates of violence have erupted and the prospect of violent conflict is now quite high. There are reports of food and other commodity shortages in the country, and people have started fleeing into neighboring states.

Due to its positioning vis-à-vis Cote d’Ivoire, coupled with its relative stability and a sizable international peacekeeping presence, Liberia is an attractive option for many fleeing Ivorians, a number of whom have since crossed the border into Liberia. By 20 December 2010, UNHCR and the Government refugee agency, LRRRC, had registered 10,936 of these people. Owing to the porous state of the 500 kilometer border between the two countries and considering that people on both sides of the border generally share the same ethnicities, there could be many more persons who have simply settled among their kinsmen and have not been registered. Liberia has already been hosting 6,871 Ivorian refugees from earlier phases of the Cote d’Ivoire conflict who are generally well integrated in the host communities in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties. It is apparent from the present level of influx into Liberia that population flows would be on a large scale if the current stalemate in Cote d’Ivoire persists or worsens. In response to the increasing influx, the Government of Liberia in collaboration with UN agencies (including WFP) and other partners constituted a rapid assessment mission to follow up on new arrivals, establish their

numbers, and assess their condition and locations.

An inter-agency contingency plan prepared by the UN Country Team in Liberia for a response to refugee influx from Cote d'Ivoire has been activated. WFP's component of the contingency plan is not resourced as it is mainly dependent on PRRO 108210 which currently faces resource challenges.

4. Effects:

The prevailing fragile security situation in Cote d'Ivoire coupled with the low level of food production in potential host communities could result in the rapid deterioration of food security, requiring that WFP is positioned to provide timely food assistance to the refugees and host population.

WFP has come under heavy pressure from other humanitarian actors and the Government refugee agency to begin immediate food assistance to the refugees and segments of the host population.

WFP Liberia has reviewed staffing needs at the sub-offices bordering Cote d'Ivoire and has already commenced the implementation of staff movement that would respond to the needs of the sub-offices. This followed the Country Office request for an IRA allocation for preparedness activities that was approved earlier in the month by the Deputy Executive Director. The Country Office now requests an IRA allocation for an Immediate Response Emergency Operation (IR-EMOP).

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

The purpose of the IR-EMOP is to address the immediate and urgent food needs of an estimated 15,000 beneficiaries for a period of 45 days, pending the preparation of a full Emergency Operation (EMOP), either regional or single-country, that would facilitate appeals to the international community to fund food assistance for the refugees. The beneficiaries include 13,500 refugees (56 percent female) and 1,500 vulnerable people (49 percent female) among the host population.

WFP IRA EMOP:

Justification for an immediate response, expected impact:

WFP food assistance is required to save lives of the refugee population, particularly among the most vulnerable groups and ensure that their basic food needs are met. Moreover, it is intended to ease the burden of these refugees on the host population and their environment.

It is expected that beneficiaries will be entirely reliant on food aid, so general food distributions will be required with full 2,100 kcal rations to cover the minimum daily requirements of energy and proteins. Vulnerable members of the host households will also be supported as their communities are being adversely affected by the influx. The arrival of the refugees has led to dramatic price increases for the two main staple

foods compared to preceding weeks. Rice price has soared by more than 65 percent and cassava price has gone up by 40 percent. At the same time, wage rates for casual labor have dipped by at least a third due to the presence of the refugees, many of whom have been relying on casual labor as a coping strategy since entering Liberia. It should be noted that the first wave of Ivorians crossed into three weeks ago. During this entire period, the refugees have been surviving on the limited food resources of host communities. A rapid assessment, to determine the food needs of the refugees and the impact of their presence on the food security of the host population, is budgeted for and will be conducted in the duration of the IR-EMOP.

Duration of assistance: 45 days

Number of beneficiaries and location: Ivorian refugees who have so far opted to remain in border areas among communities with whom they have ethnic affiliations. It is not yet clear if some of the refugees may opt for camps, a scenario the Government of Liberia would have to contend with if the influx surges beyond the absorptive capacity of host communities (the Government presently has a “no camp” policy). It is estimated that up to 13,500 refugees might have crossed the border to date, with more than 10,900 individuals verified by an inter-agency assessment mission.

Liberian Host communities: Even if camps are set up, the influx of refugees have far-reaching effects on host communities. They compete for the limited resources these communities possess, to complement their livelihood even in the presence of humanitarian assistance. This makes the host communities equally vulnerable. Of immediate concern would be an estimated 1,500 poor individuals in the border communities that have been hosting refugees from Cote d’Ivoire.

Food basket composition and ration levels (g):

Each family registered will receive a 45-day food basket at a full general food distribution ration of 0.555 kg per day per person, consisting of cereals (bulgur wheat or maize), pulses, cooking oil, corn-soya blend and iodized salt. High energy biscuits will be provided to 4,000 of the most vulnerable refugees at 250 kg per person per day for a 5-day ration.

Food basket for general food distribution for IDPs				
	<i>Days</i>	<i>Beneficiaries</i>	<i>grams</i>	<i>tons</i>
HEB	5	4 000	250	5
Cereals	45	15 000	420	283.5
Pulses	45	15 000	50	33.75
CSB	45	15 000	50	33.75
Vegoil	45	15 000	30	20.25
Salt	45	15 000	5	3.38
Total				

Mode of implementation:

The County Office will pursue the option of regional purchase where possible to ensure that there are no delays in the availability of the needed food commodities. Should this IR-EMOP be approved, the Country Office will use the approval as a basis to secure “loans” (with donor approval) from the current PRRO stock to fast track the emergency response.

WFP is coordinating and activating its response strategy using the existing network of international implementing and national distribution partners. Potential partnerships are envisaged with local NGOs such as CARITAS, SEARCH, Liberia National Red Cross Society and/or the international NGOs Samaritan’s Purse and Norwegian Refugee Council.

Both the refugees and the most vulnerable among the host population will receive full rations of general food distribution (GFD). Some 4,000 of the refugees, the most vulnerable and/or the most recently arrived, will also receive 5-day rations of 250 kg of high energy biscuit, separate and in addition to the GFD rations.

PART 2: EMOP BUDGET (attached)

Total IRA-EMOP budget (**US\$ 499,826**) is attached as Annex 1.

PART 3: EMOP APPROVAL

- 1) IRA funding is available to cover EMOP budget

Chief, RMBP: John Crisci, Date: --/--/----

- 2) EMOP is approved

Country Director, Liberia: Gatachew Diriba, Date: --/--/----

Annex 1 – Budget Summary

BUDGET COST BREAKDOWN			
Food ¹	Quantity (<i>mt</i>)	Value (<i>US\$</i>)	Value (<i>US\$</i>)
Cereals	283.5	103,478	
Pulses	33.75	15,188	
Oil and fats	20.25	26,244	
Mixed and blended food	33.75	19,238	
Others	8.38	6,880	
Total food	379.63	171,027	
Cash transfers		0.00	
Voucher transfers		0.00	
Subtotal food and transfers			171,027
External transport			68,101
Landside transport, storage and handling			84,269
Other direct operational costs			28,239
Direct support costs ² (see Annex I-B details)			115,491
		Total direct project costs	467,127
		Indirect support costs (7%) ³	32,699
		TOTAL WFP COSTS	499,826

¹ This is a notional food basket for budgeting and approval. The contents may vary.

² Indicative figure for information purposes. The direct support costs allotment is reviewed annually.

³ The indirect support cost rate may be amended by the Board during the project.

ANNEX I-B

DIRECT SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS (US\$)	
Staff and staff-related costs	
International professional staff	
International general service staff	
Local staff - national officers	
Local staff - general service	
Local staff - temporary assistance	17,250
Local staff - overtime	
Hazard pay and hardship allowance!	
International consultants	
Local consultants	
Non staff HR: UNV	
Commercial consultancy services	
Staff duty travel	17,100
Subtotal	34,350
Recurring expenses	
Rental of facility	3,333
Utilities general	2,000
Office supplies and other consumables	2,000
Communications and IT services	4,400
Equipment repair and maintenance	
Vehicle running cost and maintenance	20,843
Office set-up and repairs	18,000
UN organization services	
Subtotal	50,576
Equipment and capital costs	
Vehicle leasing	12,750
TC/IT equipment	17,815
Local security costs	
Subtotal	30,565
TOTAL DIRECT SUPPORT COSTS	115,491