

Information Note of IR-EMOP Project Document

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Date: 21 May 2009

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**INMEDIATE RESPONSE EMERGENCY OPERATION
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 10846.0 -
“ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF LAKE ENRIQUILLO FLOODING ”
PROJECT DOCUMENT**

PART 1: INFORMATION NOTE

NATURE OF EMERGENCY:

Location / Cause:

Recurrent heavy rainfalls in the last few months have caused an unprecedented growth of Lake Enriquillo, resulting in a widespread flooding and extensive damage to agricultural and pasture lands in the provinces of Independencia and Bahoruco. The impact of heavy rainfall is aggravated by the easy overflow of the river Yaque del Sur, through which abundant sediments massively flow into the Lake, causing its immediate growth and flooding of increasingly larger areas that for many years have been used for pasture and agriculture production. In 2009, this phenomenon -usually occurring during the peak of the rainy season- has started in the first couple of months of the year, provoking a critical deterioration of livelihoods around the Lake and the abandonment of large portions of traditionally productive areas.

Dominican Republic is currently under the threat of additional flooding around the Lake and in other areas of the country. The island of “La Hispaniola” is geographically exposed to the effects of the hurricanes season, from June to November, and the recent rains are likely to continue into that season with high risk of flooding across the country.

Based on an inter-ministerial preliminary situation report, the President established a response and recovery plan for the areas around Lake Enriquillo. However, to date, the Government has not been able to implement an effective and comprehensive actions to provide the required immediate emergency assistance to the affected population. As a result, the Government, through the Vice-President, has requested WFP’s immediate relief assistance in support of the affected food-insecure population.

Effects:

Latest data made available by the Ministry of Agriculture (SEA) indicate:

- flooding of 16 communities in two provinces
- 10,000 affected families
- over 18,865 hectares of agricultural and/or pasture land flooded
- flooding and damages to some 1,000 properties

Furthermore, initial field assessments by UN inter-agency missions (UNETE) indicate that there has been no government or other agencies' response to date and that there is no system in place within the affected communities to assist the vulnerable households.

Total numbers affected and in need of emergency food aid:

Based on the results of inter-agency missions, available official reports and emergency meetings with government counterparts, WFP is planning to assist initially 15,000 people, those most vulnerable and in need of immediate assistance among the overall population affected by the overflowing and flooding of Lake Enriquillo.

The operation will hence provide 15,000 beneficiaries with immediate relief assistance for three months while they are recovering their normal livelihoods.

More detailed assessments are required to estimate longer-term needs. It is therefore planned to conduct a rapid EFSA to assess the food security conditions in the affected areas and to identify / refine the requirements of specific vulnerable groups as well as the duration of eventual recovery interventions.

WFP IR EMOP:

Justification for an immediate response, expected impact:

Affected families living in the most vulnerable areas have lost their assets and agricultural output. Due to the floods, they are currently surviving without their main source of income and food. Food aid will be distributed through food-for-work modality and will complement basic items provided by NGOs in order to support people's adequate nutrition and health while recovering their normal livelihoods.

The objectives of the IR-EMOP are i) to ensure immediate access to food of the most vulnerable population and ii) to provide the most affected families with family food rations to assist them while they are recovering their livelihoods.

Duration of assistance (maximum three months): 90 days, starting 25 May 2009

Number of beneficiaries and location:

Based on the results of interagency missions, available official reports and discussions with government counterparts, WFP will assist 15,000 beneficiaries out of a total 50,000 affected, who are estimated to be most vulnerable and poor, and therefore would have highest levels of food insecurity. The majority of the assistance will be provided in the most affected communities of the provinces of Independencia and Bahoruco.

Food basket composition and ration levels:

WFP will provide three 15-days rations to most affected people, with basic food commodities locally available for immediate purchase. The ration will include rice, fortified maize flour, pulses and vegetable oil.

The daily food ration per person is as follows:

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Grams</i>
Cereals (Rice)	200
Maize meal (fortified)	150
Pulses	80
Vegetable oil	20

This ration will provide approximately 1,700 Kcal per day per person, equivalent to 80% of daily requirements, as most of the households will have access to other sources of food and have developed coping mechanisms or partially recovered their livelihoods.

The total requirement for the 45 days of assistance to 15,000 persons is as follows:

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>MT</i>
Rice	135
Maize meal (fortified)	101
Pulses	54
Vegetable oil	14
TOTAL	304

Mode of implementation:

Food will be distributed mainly through food-for-work activities that will be carried out over a three-month period to progressively allow beneficiary families to resume their agricultural and/or cattle ranching activities. The food assistance will be complemented with non-food items such as seeds, agricultural tools, safe water, basic sanitation and medicines, mainly provided by partners and the Government. Food-for-work activities will focus mainly on cleaning sediments of Yaque del Sur River (main cause of continuous flooding) and rehabilitation of productive lands.

Fortified maize meal has been included in the ration as government and humanitarian actors emphasize the importance of having adequate food for young children.

The counterpart agencies in Dominican Republic will be the Social Cabinet for Coordination of Social Policies and the Ministry of Agriculture. The majority of the activities during the relief interventions will be implemented through local NGOs and small farmer associations.

The commodities for the relief distribution will be purchased locally in order to assist beneficiaries as quickly as possible.

The WFP Regional Bureau will oversee the operation and the operational management will be ensured through the support of EPR and Logistics Officers from the WFP Regional Hubs Network (LACERN).

PART 2: EMOP BUDGET (attached)

Total EMOP budget (**449,090 US\$**) is attached.

PART 3: EMOP APPROVAL

1) IRA funding is available to cover EMOP budget

Chief, OMXP:, Date: --I--/----

2) EMOP is approved

Regional Director, OMP, Date: --/--/----