**RAPID RESPONSE - INTERVENTION application form**

**Applying organisation**: International Aid Services / IAS Ethiopia

**Title of the intervention**: Emergency food distribution in response to the drought affecting Miyo Woreda, Borena

## The humanitarian intervention

* 1. **The context:**

**Emergency Response Relevance (CHS 1)**

The drought in Borena, southern Ethiopia, has caused a severe water shortage leading to harvest failure and the decimation of livestock, which are the main sources of livelihoods. This has led to acute food insecurity, water shortages, malnutrition and protection concerns. The drought compounds the effects of a series of droughts over recent years, desert locust invasions, and regional conflict and insecurity (refer to attached context analysis). The planned response is to address one of the main humanitarian needs arising from the crisis – malnutrition and food insecurity affecting children, pregnant and lactating mothers, and the elderly. These groups have been identified by various assessments as being particularly affected by the drought. The Borena Zone Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Office has requested IAS Ethiopia to address unmet food distribution needs in Miyo Woreda. According to the information from this office, nearly 166,000 people need emergency food assistance due to crop failures and loss of livestock associated with drought. Therefore, the proposed humanitarian assistance of providing supplementary food is **appropriate and relevant as per CHS 1.**

**Effectiveness and Timeliness (CHS 2)**

The emergency distribution of supplementary food will be **effective** as it would help to ensure the well-being of the most affected segments of the community basically, young children, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly. The vulnerability of these target groups is documented in the number of cases of acute malnutrition reported by the Borena Zone DRM Office that have rapidly increased over the last few months. The same office has identified a gap in the humanitarian intervention in terms of food distributions in Miyo Woreda. IAS Ethiopia will distribute sacks of Famix flour to the most vulnerable and drought-affected target groups. Famix is made from whole roasted soya flour and maize flour and is made using top quality processing methods that comply with all national food levels and standards. This relief product continues to be a primary choice for drought affected children and women (particular for pregnant and lactating) and has proven **effectiveness** in preventing malnutrition during times of food scarcity. The proposed intervention would be **timely** as the communities are already in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, and rates of malnutrition are rapidly increasing. With no rain forecast over the next six months, there is a small window of opportunity to support vulnerable groups before the level of malnutrition becomes life-threatening. An early intervention will save lives and prevent future losses. IAS Ethiopia will be able to procure and distribute the Famix flour rapidly upon approval of the project by DERF and signing of a Project Agreement with the local authorities. Therefore, the proposed distribution of Famix flour to vulnerable children, pregnant and lactating women, and elderly at risk of malnutrition will be **effective and timely in accordance with CHS 2.**

* 1. **Content of the intervention:**

**a) Activities, results, and outcomes**

The proposed intervention aims to rehabilitate vulnerable children under fourteen years old, pregnant and lactating women, and elderly, who are identified as acutely malnourished during screenings. The intervention also aims to reduce the risk of child mortality and through an awareness-raising component, aspires to enhance the basic nutrition knowledge of mothers and other women in communities targeted by the supplementary food distribution activity.

Through the intervention, targeted vulnerable people in Borena Zone, Miyo Woreda, will have immediate access to nutritious food and improved knowledge of nutritious food preparation, increasing their nutrition intake and survival rate. Accordingly, provision of Famix (nutritious food) will reduce malnutrition and improve health condition. This intervention will also reinforce the target communities’ knowledge, skills and capability towards prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women and girls.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Objectives** | **Activities** | **Expected results** | **Indicators** |
| 1. Rehabilitate children suffering from or vulnerable to malnutrition | * 1. Provide supplementary food assistance to 2,050 children (1,000 under the age of 5 years and 1,050 between the ages of 6 and 14 years) who are at risk of malnutrition   2. Sensitize the local community on the importance nutritious meals for the growth and development of children | * Reduced vulnerabilities of under 14 children to malnourishment. * Improved awareness of the local community to nutritious meal needs of children. | 1. Number of children who get support of Famix (50kg/child = 12.5kg/month over 4 months) 2. Number of households who receive information on nutritious meals for children. 3. Percentage of families reporting recommended use of Famix one month after the distribution. |
| 1. Rehabilitate pregnant and lactating women suffering from or vulnerable to malnutrition | * 1. Provide supplementary food assistance to 1,100 pregnant and lactating women   2. Enhance the basic nutrition knowledge of mothers | * Reduced vulnerabilities of pregnant women and lactating mothers to starvation * Improved physical and health status of pregnant women and lactating mothers and improved ability to nourish unborn and breastfeeding infants | 1. Number of women who get support of Famix (50kg/woman = 12.5kg/month over 4 months) 2. Number of mothers who receive information on nutritious meal for themselves and children. |
| 1. Rehabilitate vulnerable elderly people suffering from or vulnerable to malnutrition | * 1. Provide supplementary food assistance to 500 elderly people in the target area | * Reduced vulnerabilities of elderly people to starvation * Improved health and physical status of elderly people | 1. Number of elderly people who get support of Famix (50kg/person = 12.5kg/month over 4 months) |
| 1. Improved awareness of SGBV and other protection issues affecting women and girls in the drought crisis | * 1. Conduct consultative workshop on SGBV issues in areas where distribution occurs   2. Mobilize school communities in distribution villages for the prevention of SGBV. | * Enhanced awareness of the local community on SGBV issues * Reduced vulnerabilities of girls and women to SGBV | 1. Number of schools that actively worked on combating GBV issues 2. Number of networks established to prevent GBV issues |

**b). Changes as a result of this Humanitarian Intervention**

Through the intervention, vulnerable children, pregnant and lactating women, and elderly in Miyo district will have immediate life-saving access to supplementary food (Famix) that will help rehabilitate them from the effects of malnutrition caused by the drought. Provision of supplementary food will reduce malnutrition and associated death and illness, and increase the physical well-being and health of children, mothers, and the elderly.

**c) Measuring achievement of results and outcomes**

IAS Ethiopia will conduct real time monitoring of the project activities to make sure that the project is implemented as per the plan. It will also conduct an evaluation as to whether the project objectives are attained as planned or not. It will conduct consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders to review the performance of the project. IAS Ethiopia will submit narrative and financial progress and safety reports to IAS DK while feedback and learning from monitoring will be documented and shared for mutual learning*.*

The achievement of the results and outcomes of the project will be measured through assessment of the progress against the set indicators.

**d) Mode of assistance**

The proposed intervention will be implemented using an **in-kind assistance** mechanism. Accordingly, vulnerable children, women, and elderly in the Miyo Woreda district shall receive direct in-kind support of Famix. Famix is a corn and soya flour used as a ready to eat feeding supplement that is widely used by the government and NGOs in Ethiopia to address food insecurity. The project shall not adopt cash or food vouchers mechanisms since Famix is produced by special order from eligible organizations and is not available on the local market. As per previous experience, IAS Ethiopia will distribute the food for the target beneficiaries after joint verification by the responsible Government office and the IAS Emergency Team has been completed.

**e) Consideration of DERF call priorities**

This intervention responds to the main priorities in the DERF call for Rapid Response Mechanism **Spike in Complex Crisis in Ethiopia (21-007-SP)** in **Southern drought-affected areas of Ethiopia.** As per DERF priorities, the proposed intervention will:

* be implemented in the Miyo Woreda in Borena Zone (southern Ethiopia);
* focus on food security and nutrition through the distribution of Famix food supplement, while also addressing protection as a cross-cutting issue;
* target children, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly, groups identified as particularly vulnerable to food insecurity;
* help reduce risk of SGBV to women and children through community awareness raising sessions.

**f) Ensuring resources are managed and used in an effective, efficient and ethical manner (CHS 9)**

IAS Ethiopia will ensure that resources are managed and used effectively, efficiently and ethically through application of its well-established procurement procedures, warehouse management system, and distribution and monitoring system. Robust warehouse monitoring and supervision during unloading and distribution, coupled with post-distribution monitoring shall also be used to ensure proper management of the Famix. These systems have been proven over time during similar distributions elsewhere, including one undertaken in October 2021 in Dessie in the north of Ethiopia. IAS Ethiopia also has strong financial systems in place to ensure procurement is conducted in accordance with financial policies and that there is zero tolerance to corruption or fraud. An external audit will be conducted at the end of the project to ensure these policies have been complied with.

**g) Starting within 7 days of receiving first transfer from DERF**

IAS Ethiopia shall start the proposed intervention within 7 days of receiving the first funds transfer. It has well-coordinated operation among its Country Office and the Field Office staff. Assignments will be shared between Country Office staff in Addis Ababa and Field Office staff in Borena. The Field Office in Borena is already established, fully staffed, and operational, meaning the proposed intervention can be implemented at short notice. IAS staff are committed and have good experience of managing similar emergency interventions, which can also help to efficiently and timely manage the proposed intervention. Moreover, IAS has good communication and networking with local government offices, which can in turn contribute to handle the emergency intervention in the proposed time. IAS Ethiopia is already in contact with local authorities and the manufacturer of Famix about this potential project, meaning the necessary approvals and procurement can be facilitated rapidly upon signature of the contract with DERF.

 **1.3 The target group:**

**a) Target group description**

Although the drought has affected the whole community in Miyo district in various ways, the proposed humanitarian intervention is designed to address the needs of three particularly vulnerable target groups who have become malnourished due to poor food security and the current drought: **children under fourteen years of age, pregnant and lactating women, and elderly people**. These groups are vulnerable due to their specific health situation and inability to migrate to unaffected areas in response to drought.

Individuals within these target groups will be identified in collaboration with pertinent local bodies including Kebele Administrations, district health offices and Borena Zone DRM Office. Households that are highly affected by the drought and struggling for survival, have physical signs of malnutrition, and have hardship to get resources to cater for sufficient supply of food for the children and their nutritional needs will get high priority.

**b) Quantify your planned target group by gender and age group in the table below.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PLANNED TARGET POPULATION (INDIVIDUALS)** | | | |
| **Age Group** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Number of persons | Number of persons | Number of persons |
| < 5 | 500 | 500 | 1,000 |
| 6-14 | **525** | **525** | **1,050** |
| 15-24 |  | 500 | 500 |
| 25-49 |  | 600 | 600 |
| 50-64 | 150 | 150 | 300 |
| > 65 | 100 | 100 | 200 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Total** | **1,275** | **2,375** | **3,650** |

**c) Particularly vulnerable people**

The proposed intervention entirely focuses on vulnerable segments of the community. In this case, the direct target group comprise of children below 14 years old, pregnant and lactating women, and elderly people because they are the segments of the community most vulnerable to malnutrition at times of food scarcity. Persons living with disability are an especially vulnerable sub-group of each of these target groups. While constituting a separate target group, persons with disability will be a key focus of the beneficiary identification and selection process, and it is estimated that some 180 disabled people (5% of total beneficiaries) across all categories will be reached through this intervention.

In addition to vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition, women and children are at increased risk of SGBV during the drought crisis. Accordingly, protection issues will be treated as a cross-cutting theme, with sensitization sessions held in all communities where distribution occurs.

## The implementing partner

**2.1 Capacity, experience and expertise:**

**a) Capacity, experience, and expertise of the implementing partner**

International Aid Services is a non-government organization implementing development and humanitarian interventions in Ethiopia since 2004. It is run from a Country Office in Addis Ababa and has a functioning Field Office in Borena (Yabello). IAS Ethiopia is part of the IAS-LM alliance supported by the Head Office in Sweden and the Regional Office in Addis Ababa, both of which bear the name Läkarmissionen (the two organisations merged in 2019). IAS Ethiopia relates to IAS Denmark through the IAS-LM Alliance.

As far as the **capacity** of IAS Ethiopia is concerned, there is a strong organizational structure in place that helps it to successfully accomplish different programmatic objectives and goals effectively. At present, IAS Ethiopia has expertise in and is implementing projects covering different thematic areas including Education, WASH, and Resilience, with a number of emergency (food security/nutrition) interventions undertaken in Tigray, Amhara, and Oromia regions over recent years in response to Covid-19 and the northern Ethiopia security crisis. IAS Ethiopia adheres to the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) in all emergency interventions to ensure that the response is up to standard and that it follows good humanitarian response practices. Programming capacity is supported by a strong administrative capacity to manage funds received from different donors. In particular, its committed and capable finance, logistics, and administration staff have the capacity to handle project finances and procurement in an efficient way. The annual budget of the organization for the last 4 years was approximately 2,685,000 DKK (2017), 3,260,000 DKK (2018), 4,485,000 DKK (2019), 2,800,000 DKK (2020), and 4,110,000 DKK (forecast for 2021).

IAS Ethiopia has considerable **experience** and **expertise** developed over 16 years in emergency operations and relief work, including food and NFI distribution and water trucking. This **experience** includes recent emergency distribution of Famix in response to crises in Somali, Oromia, Tigray and Amhara regions. These projects have been implemented successfully and have been well received by beneficiaries and the local and regional governments. Staff are well acquainted with design, implementation, and monitoring of food distribution and other Humanitarian interventions.

**b) Access to the people at risk, particularly vulnerable people**

IAS Ethiopia has been working in Borena since 2012 and operating both development and emergency responses in most part of Borena Zone. During this time, it has well familiarized itself with the community and local administrations. Moreover, the organization closely works with the Pastoralist and Agro-Pastoralist communities of Borena and has a good understanding of their culture, norms, traditions, language, religion etc. This alignment with the community is aided by local staff who work with IAS Ethiopia. This means that there is an open platform created for IAS to operate in Borena Zone, which help its operation immensely and ensures free access to the different Woredas and villages. As the most vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition are also frequently marginalised by others in the community, close working relationship with the local communities and authorities is vital in being able to identify, access, and serve the target groups.

Given the potential for conflict within the intervention area, both from non-state armed groups and inter-community violence, it is important that the safety of implementing staff is prioritised so that they can do their job safely (CHS 8). Accordingly, IAS Ethiopia will ensure that a robust risk assessment is undertaken prior to starting work, and that minimum operating safety standards (MOSS) are prescribed and adhered to. IAS Denmark will provide support to IAS Ethiopia in establishing and monitoring the MOSS and associated safety management system.

**3.2 The partnership:**

**a) Partnership agreement**

The partnership between the Danish Organisation (IAS Denmark) and the implementing organisation (IAS Ethiopia) will be based on a partnership agreement stating the types of cooperation, principles for cooperation and the roles and responsibilities of each partner. It was developed in close cooperation with IAS Ethiopia and has been used successfully as the basis for previous interventions in Ethiopia.

**b) Contribution, roles, and responsibilities of partners**

IAS Denmark and IAS Ethiopia have cooperated successfully since 2012 on projects that have impacted many lives in Ethiopia, including emergency, WASH, and Inclusive Education interventions in Borena and the south of Ethiopia. The partnership has its roots in the IAS-LM Alliance, and the two parties have developed strong working relationships. A specific project agreement will be developed and signed by both parties outlining roles and responsibilities, reporting deadlines, good practice and management of funds. Focus is on enhancing collaboration, communication, and safeguarding, and avoid fraud, corruption and misuse of funds.

The roles will be distributed as follows: **IAS Denmark** will offer overall coordination and monitoring role of the intervention including finances, implementation and follow up, safety management, contact to DERF, monitoring visit, and submission of final reports and assist in the risk and safety management training, advice and establishing proper procedures, as well as the Danish audit. **IAS Denmark** and **IAS Ethiopia** will closely collaborate and be cautious in all amendments, issues raised, and decisions that regards the intervention. **IAS Ethiopia** will receive and manage funds, and implement the project, including being responsible for project audit. **IAS Ethiopia** will have the overall supervision of the project in Ethiopia including reporting to **IAS Ethiopia**, ensure quality and compliance with the CHS and other standards and policies, implement and monitor risk and safety management. **IAS Ethiopia** will be responsible for implementing the project activities in liaison with stakeholders and local authorities (Borena Zone DRM Office and Woredas/Kebeles) responsible for disaster response, with who it will be required to sign an agreement before receiving permission to implement the project.

## Local strengthening

**3.1** **The intervention strengthens local capacities and avoid negative effects (CHS 3)?**

IAS will engage the local community and local administrative bodies in the implementation process to ensure the success of the project and develop their capacity. The target group and local administrative bodies will be involved in every stage of implementation. The intervention will adhere to the set rules and agreements that will be put in place by the local community, humanitarian community and the government. IAS complies with humanitarian principles, code of conduct and CHS. The organization will provide training on safeguarding of the target community from any form of violence and abuse. The intervention will also be done with due compliance with government regulations in relation to Covid-19 to protect staff and avoid the spread of the virus to and within the community. More specifically, IAS Ethiopia will make efforts to identify and act upon potential or actual unintended negative effects in a timely and systematic manner, including in the areas of:

* People’s safety, security, dignity and rights;
* Sexual exploitation and abuse by staff;
* Culture, gender, and social and political relationships;
* Livelihoods;
* The environment.

**3.2 Strategies for informing and involving affected people in the intervention (CHS 4)**

In this respect, IAS Ethiopia will provide information to communities and people affected about the organisation, the principles it adheres to, how it expects its staff to behave, the programmes it is implementing and what they intend to deliver. Information sharing and communication will be made in languages, formats and media that are easily understood, respectful and culturally appropriate for different members of the community, especially vulnerable and marginalised groups. The communities and people affected by the crisis are encouraged to provide feedback and complaints on their level of satisfaction with the quality and effectiveness of the assistance received, paying particular attention to the gender, age and diversity of those giving feedback. To this end, IAS Ethiopia’s complaints response mechanism will be rolled out within the target communities at the start of the intervention.

**3.3 Environment marker (only for monitoring purposes)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MARK |  | DESCRIPTION |  | EXPLANATION |
|  | → | **The intervention includes environmentally harmful components without incorporating mitigation measures to reduce anticipated impact** | → | The intervention duly identifies and considers the environmental impact of its collective activities as harmful without being able to apply substantiated remedial action (e.g. sourcing, procurement, supply chains, logistics, transport, waste and service delivery). |
|  | → | **The intervention includes environmentally harmful components and incorporates some mitigation measures to reduce anticipated impact** | → | The intervention duly identifies and considers the environmental impact of its collective activities as harmful and applies some substantiated remedial action (e.g. sourcing, procurement, supply chains, logistics, transport, waste and service delivery). |
|  | → | **The intervention includes environmentally harmful components and incorporates significant mitigation and environmental enhancement measures to reduce anticipated impact** | → | The intervention duly identifies and considers the environmental impact of its collective activities as harmful and includes significant substantiated remedial action as well as environmental enhancement components (e.g. sourcing, procurement, supply chains, logistics, transport, waste and service delivery). |

**b) The intervention avoids and/or reduces negative environments effects, and - if relevant - mitigates their potential impacts.**

The intervention will provide awareness to the beneficiaries to properly dispose the sacks in order to mitigate the environmental risk of the waste materials to the environment. However, given the size and durable composition of the sacks, beneficiaries are more likely to reuse them than to throw them away.

## 4. Risk Management & MEAL

**4.1 Risk management approach and mitigation strategies**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No | Risk | Mitigation strategy | Responsible person |
| 1 | Security problem due to presence of Oromia Liberation Front armed men in the area | Prior security status check in consultation with local government authorities.  Work with local authorities for deployment of police during distribution. | Borena Field Office |
| 2 | Political instability in the country | Follow security alerts from government communication offices. | Program Office |
| 3 | The risk of spread of Covid-19 pandemic (staff health and possible restrictions on movement that may hinder project implementation) | Make sure that proper care is made towards preventing the spread of Covid-19, including wearing of masks, hand washing, minimizing size of groups, vaccination of staff, etc. | Program Office |
| 4 | Rapid inflation and/or shortage of commodities as result of the war in the north and its economic impacts | Undertake the procurement such that invoices may be paid at the start of the project and as soon as possible after funds are transferred | Finance Manager |

**4.2 The implementing partner(s) approach to monitoring, feedback and accountability systems (CHS 5), including the contextual complaint mechanisms.**

IAS Ethiopia employs a participatory monitoring approach involving beneficiaries, partners and stakeholders, and the same strategy will be employed for this project. A Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan that incorporates indicators, data collection methods, and data collection tools will be developed and used. The monitoring process will be directed to the timeliness, quality, and quantity of the intervention and will focus on assessing the improvements attributable to the project. A key strategy of this is the collection of age, gender, disability, and vulnerability disaggregated information during the identification of beneficiaries and the distribution of Famix that will allow for accurate quantification of the different target sub-groups.

In order to comply with its accountability responsibility, IAS Ethiopia will inform the community of their rights and entitlements in the project. They will also be notified with the available complaint mechanisms they can use to provide their concern, feedback, and complaints. Complaints contact persons will be assigned and notified to the community and other stakeholders to receive and address the complaints of the community in a timely manner. Related with discharging its accountability responsibility, IAS Ethiopia will also submit progress and final reports in a timely manner to the donor and to signatory government offices as per the agreement made.

A complaints mechanism will be established in accordance with IAS Ethiopia Safe-Guarding and Protection Policy. This will ensure that various appropriate means of lodging complaints are available in all target areas. As such, information will be provided in local languages and in written and non-written forms. Care will be chosen when identifying complaints focal points to ensure that they are people to whom the most vulnerable groups (e.g. women and children) are comfortable lodging a complaint. Contact details for Field Office and Country Office staff will be left in all target communities, and all complaints will be dealt with in an appropriate and timely fashion.

**4.3 How learning and reflection will be applied in terms of improving future humanitarian interventions (CHS 7)**

IAS Ethiopia has monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning practices that are found to be effective means to learn from experiences and improve future interventions. It has undertaken several similar emergency food distribution projects over recent years, as recently as October 2021 in Dessie in the north of Ethiopia. After each distribution an internal debrief is held to assess what worked well and what could be improved for next time. This continual learning will inform the design of the beneficiary targeting, food distribution, and follow-up monitoring of the proposed project. Similarly, an evaluation of the proposed project will be used to improve future interventions.

## 5. Coordination

**5.1 The intervention complements the humanitarian and/or development efforts of the national and local authorities, as well as those of other stakeholders.**

The humanitarian intervention that plans to provide Famix to vulnerable segments of the community in Miyo Woreda is complementary to other humanitarian interventions by the government and CSOs. The support provided by other actors until now included water trucking, cattle feed and some food items. Therefore, the support item avoids duplication of efforts and shall fill the gap not addressed by other parties. In fact, the proposed intervention type and location has been specifically requested by the Borena Zone DRM Office to address unfilled gaps in the overall humanitarian response. IAS Ethiopia’s active participation in coordination mechanisms (5.2) is key to ensuring complementarity.

**5.2 Implementing partner participation in relevant coordination mechanisms**

Since 2009 IAS Ethiopia has been an active participant in humanitarian coordination mechanisms at both the federal and local levels. At the Federal level, IAS Ethiopia is a member of the national emergency cluster, WASH/ ETF, which is co-chaired by Ministry of Water, Irrigation & Electricity and UNICEF. Meetings are held every month (twice a month during emergency situations). In meetings, information is shared between NGO’s and government agencies. This coordination body helps to identify who is working where, to highlight gaps, and identify new areas that need intervention. The Program Manager represents IAS Ethiopia, and in his absence is represented by the Human Resource Manager.

At zonal level in Borena there is a Disaster Risk Management/DRM task force, which is an emergency task force responsible for monitoring the humanitarian situation in Borena Zone. IAS Ethiopia is an active member of this group, including at the most recent meeting on 21 October 2021 at which the drought crisis and response was discussed at large. There is also a government body to coordinate NGO’s, field assessments, and map interventions. NGO’s implement projects based on needs as assessed by this group. IAS Ethiopia Borena program field coordinator represents IAS and updates the Program Manager in Addis Ababa on the outcomes of the meetings and any developments. Engagement in these coordination systems ensures that IAS is an active and relevant humanitarian actor, that the project implemented has the relevant support and recognition from the stakeholders, and that responses are complementary and well-coordinated, avoiding duplication.