

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “COMMON AFRICAN MAIL BAG INITIATIVE” PROJECT

1. BACKGROUND REMINDER

Burkina Faso was designated to pursue the implementation of the “African common postal bag initiative” joint project through the purchase of these bags for the African countries that express interest to join the initiative.

It should be noted that the project will be funded directly by the Member States. Each interested country will participate financially in addition to the existing funding of thirty thousand (US\$ 30,000) provided by the United Arab Emirates.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The main objectives of the project are to strengthen the links of cooperation and friendship among member countries and enable them to:

- Purchase quality postal bags;
- Reduce the costs of acquiring bags for each participating country.

3. IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES

As stated earlier, there is an existing amount of funds worth thirty thousand (US\$ 30,000) from the United Arab Emirates. Depending on demand, Member States will be allowed to provide additional funding from their QSF accounts if they have enough money in their QSF account or from their sources. Thus, the quantities of bags to be allocated to each participating country will be determined by the level of their financial contribution made towards the initiative.

Accordingly, each country will indicate the amount of its financial commitment through a QSF Statement of Commitment Form and will communicate its needs as follows:

- The desired sizes (large size, medium-size, or small size);
- Type of bag: airmail bag or surface/road transport mailbag.

4. UPDATE ON THE STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "AFRICAN COMMON POSTAL BAG INITIATIVE" PROJECT

Circular letters accompanied by a needs assessment sheet and a declaration of commitment form were sent in 2020 and 2021 to designated operators of member countries to invite them to indicate their needs and the amount of their financial commitment. Countries interested in this initiative and which had not yet reacted were invited to express their interest and communicate their needs as well as the quantities for the start of the project before the end of 2021.

As of 30 April 2022, only twelve (12) countries namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo Rep., Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Morocco, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo replied and express their interest in the project.

To prepare the call for tenders, contacts were made with suppliers to establish reference prices. The average prices are as follows:

- Small aircraft bag: US\$ 24
- Small surface bag: US\$ 22
- Big aircraft bag: US\$ 27
- Large surface parcel bag: US\$ 34
- Average aircraft bag: US\$ 25

5. CONCLUSION/WAY FORWARD

Given the poor response, a reminder letter will be sent in June to Member States' Designated Operators that have not yet responded, inviting them to communicate their needs and financial commitment before the end of July 2022. At the end of this period, the call for tenders will be finalized and sent out for the purchase of the bags in collaboration with the UPU International Bureau.