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برنامج الأغذية العالمي

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For information

Executive Board documents are available on WFP's website (<https://executiveboard.wfp.org>).

Revision of Nicaragua transitional interim country strategic plan and corresponding budget increase

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	1 January 2018– 31 December 2018	1 January 2019– 31 March 2019	1 January 2018– 31 March 2019
Beneficiaries	276 400	19 000	295 400
<i>(USD)</i>			
Total cost	11 682 794	4 072 405	15 755 199
Transfers	8 830 889	3 148 530	11 979 419
Implementation	876 353	318 856	1 195 209
Adjusted direct support costs	1 262 518	356 468	1 618 986
Subtotal	10 969 760	3 823 855	14 793 615
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	713 034	248 551	961 585

Gender and age marker 2A* (based on the marker of the transitional interim country strategic plan approved by the Board)

* <http://gender.manuals.wfp.org/en/gender-toolkit/gender-in-programming/gender-and-age-marker/>.

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Decision

The Board approved by correspondence the revision of the Nicaragua transitional interim country strategic plan and corresponding budget increase of USD 4,072,405 outlined in the present document.

28 December 2018

Rationale

1. The purpose of this revision is to extend the end date of the Nicaragua transitional interim country strategic plan (T-ICSP) from 31 December 2018 to 31 March 2019. This three-month extension of the T-ICSP will allow WFP to continue to employ the current financial and programmatic structure for the implementation of activities until a country strategic plan (CSP) is put in place on 1 April 2019, subject to its approval by the Executive Board at its 2019 first regular session. WFP will take the necessary steps during the extension period to prepare for a successful transition to the CSP structure.
2. The extension of the T-ICSP requires a budget increase of USD 4 million to allow WFP to continue to carry out activity 1 (school meals), activity 4 (support for smallholder farmers), activity 6 (emergency assistance to affected populations) and activity 7 (emergency preparedness) during the extension period.
3. The revision does not introduce any strategic change to the T-ICSP. In order to respond to changing needs, however, it will increase the coverage of activity 1, introduce an additional transfer modality under activity 6 and increase capacity strengthening under activities 4 and 7. The changes are as follows:
 - An increase in the number of schoolchildren targeted under activity 1 of 9,500 boys and 9,500 girls. These additional beneficiaries include schoolchildren in Jinotega and the Northern Autonomous Atlantic Caribbean Coast Region (RACCN), who will attend special classes on Saturdays designed to tackle school desertion;
 - An increase in capacity strengthening under activity 4 for smallholder farmers affected by rainfall deficit and subsequent heavy rains during 2018 to help mitigate the impact of these weather extremes on their livelihoods;
 - An increase in capacity strengthening for government partners in respect of disaster risk reduction, early warning systems and information management; and
 - The introduction of value vouchers as a new transfer modality under activity 6 (emergency food assistance to shock-affected populations) to respond to a rapid-onset emergency that began in October 2018.

Changes

Strategic orientation

4. The T-ICSP aims to contribute to long-term approaches that seek to break the inter-generational cycle of hunger and undernutrition while addressing immediate food needs, including during emergencies. This revision extends the T-ICSP by three months while maintaining its strategic orientation and programmatic approach.
5. There have been three previous revisions of the T-ICSP. The first was to adjust indirect support cost rates. The second, submitted for Executive Director approval in August 2018, increased the number of beneficiaries receiving emergency food assistance, capacity strengthening to support emergency preparedness efforts and capacity strengthening for smallholder farmers, at a cost USD 1,511,875. The third revision simplified the T-ICSP budget.

Strategic outcomes

6. To ensure continued support for the national school meals programme, this revision increases the budget for activity 1. From January through March 2019, WFP will continue to provide meals to school children in Jinotega and Northern Autonomous Atlantic Caribbean Coast Region, equally benefiting boys and girls with nutritious food baskets. WFP will also provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Education with the aim of enhancing the quality and sustainability of the school meals programme, particularly by strengthening its nutrition component through the preparation and dissemination of nutritional guidelines and learning materials.
7. The budget increase will also allow WFP to increase its support to smallholder farmers (activity 4) affected by the negative impacts of weather extremes during the second half of 2018. During June and July, the Dry Corridor of Nicaragua suffered a severe rainfall deficit, negatively affecting the first agricultural season and the food production of smallholder farmers. This was followed by an excess of rainfall in the last quarter of the year, which disrupted the second planting season and is expected to have a negative impact on the December harvest, thereby compounding the effects of the drought. In response, WFP will work with smallholder farmers to boost their capacity to reduce post-harvest losses and access markets at this critical time.
8. This revision also increases the budget for activity 6 to meet the food needs of flood-affected people. At the beginning of October, Nicaragua was severely affected by heavy rains that disrupted public infrastructure, access to basic services and the livelihoods of the most vulnerable. Over 25,000 people were directly affected in the Pacific, central, and northern regions. On 15 October, another wave of heavy rains led to further disruptions in the Pacific and Caribbean area, affecting almost 3,000 people. According to official reports, these extreme weather conditions resulted in at least 15 fatalities and significant material damage. The rains are also expected to have an impact on the December harvest and smallholder access to food, which prompted the Government to request WFP assistance. In response, WFP and the Government will provide in-kind food assistance for 30 days in order to meet food and nutrition requirements.
9. Based on the Government's request, in-kind food assistance will be complemented by value vouchers to support livelihood recovery (activity 6). The need for this action was identified in national assessments, which confirmed that the rains had significantly disrupted the livelihoods of low-income subsistence farming families. Targeted populations will receive vouchers that they can redeem for non-food items such as agricultural inputs, seeds and basic planting tools. The non-food items will enhance food production and generate additional income, key for continued sustainable food access, thus promoting short- and medium-term recovery. This modality was tested in 2017 and proved to be a valuable way to guarantee food security at times of crisis, particularly when deployed in combination with relief food rations. The value of the voucher is USD 100 per assisted family (USD 20 per beneficiary, with an average of five family members), and was determined based on the 2017 experience, with the aim of ensuring that it is adequate to meet the needs of those affected.
10. Finally, this revision augments the technical assistance to the Government on emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction under activity 7. This was identified as a need during recent consultations and assessments, as WFP is supporting the Government's preparedness activities related to the rainfall deficit in the Dry Corridor.

Beneficiary analysis

11. This revision increases the beneficiaries of activity 1 by 9,500 girls and 9,500 boys. These children will attend school only on Saturdays, under a special schooling modality designed to prevent school desertion and absenteeism.

Strategic outcome	Activity	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0-18 years)	Boys (0-18 years)	Total
1	1	Current	-	-	81 500	81 500	163 000
		Increase/decrease	-	-	9 500	9 500	-
		Revised	-	-	91 000	91 000	182 000
Total (without overlap)		Current	16 464	15 336	122 436	122 164	276 400
		Increase/decrease	-	-	9 500	9 500	19 000
		Revised	16 464	15 336	131 936	131 664	295 400

Transfers

	Strategic outcome 1				Strategic outcome 4
	Activity 1				Activity 6
Beneficiary type	Schoolchildren Jinotega	Schoolchildren Jinotega (special modality)	Schoolchildren RACCN	Schoolchildren RACCN (special modality)	Shock-affected people
Modality	Food	Food	Food	Food	Food and value vouchers
Cereals	80	80	80	80	400
Pulses	30	30	30	30	60
Oil	15	15	15	15	
Salt	-	-	-	-	6
Dried skimmed milk	10	10	10	10	-
SuperCereal	35	35	35	35	60
SuperCereal Plus					-
Dates	10	10	10	10	-
total kcal/day	718	718	718	718	2 096
% kcal from protein	12.6	12.6	12.8	12.8	10.6
Cash-based transfers (USD/person/day; use average as needed)	-	-	-	-	0.67
Number of feeding days per year	180	40	180	40	30

TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS AND VALUE

	Current budget		Increase		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	3 401	1 875 139	864	573 488	4 265	2 448 627
Pulses	1 070	1 290 961	258	310 044	1 328	1 601 005
Oil and fats	542	970 952	104	102 315	646	1 073 267
Mixed and blended foods	1 407	756 395	362	198 945	1 769	955 340
Other	593	1 274 458	103	146 043	696	1 420 501
Total (food)	7 013	6 167 906	1 691	1 330 834	8 704	7 498 740
Cash-based transfers (USD)	-	-	-	200 000	-	200 001
Total (food and cash-based transfer value)	7 013	6 167 906	1 691	1 530 835	8 704	7 698 741

Cost breakdown

12. This revision will increase the overall budget for the T-ICSP by USD 4 million, including to fund an increase in capacity strengthening for the Government under activities 1, 4 and 7. In addition, WFP will increase transfer costs under activity 1 by USD 1.7 million and activity 6 by USD 236,888. Adjusted direct support costs will also increase by USD 356,468.
13. To meet the increasing needs reflected in this revision, WFP will continue to seek support from donors, particularly those with established presence in the country. WFP Nicaragua has a strong forecast for 2019, including for the activities that are seeing an increase in their budget.

TABLE 4: COST BREAKDOWN OF THE REVISION ONLY (USD)

	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 2/ SDG Target 2.2	Strategic Result 3/ SDG Target 2.3	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 5/ SDG Target 2.5	Total
Strategic outcome	1	2	3	4	5	
Focus area	Root causes	Root causes	Resilience building	Crisis response	Resilience building	
Transfers	1 749 344	-530	910 399	243 692	245 625	3 148 530
Implementation	122 845	2 805	108 752	42 183	42 272	318 856
Adjusted direct support costs						356 468
Subtotal						3 823 855
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)						248 551
Total						4 072 405

TABLE 5: OVERALL COST BREAKDOWN, AFTER REVISION (USD)						
	Strategic Result 1/SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 2/SDG Target 2.2	Strategic Result 3/SDG Target 2.3	Strategic Result 1/SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 5/SDG Target 17.9	Total
Strategic outcome	1	2	3	4	5	
Focus area	Root causes	Root causes	Resilience building	Crisis response	Resilience building	
Transfers	7 717 093	221 719	2 037 510	1 326 518	676 579	11 979 419
Implementation	517 476	23 593	439 783	133 190	81 167	1 195 209
Adjusted direct support costs	1 014 947	31 081	297 402	184 144	91 413	1 618 986
Subtotal	9 249 516	276 394	2 774 695	1 643 852	849 158	14 793 615
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	601 219	17 966	180 355	106 850	55 195	961 585
Total	9 850 735	294 359	2 955 050	1 750 702	904 353	15 755 199