

Crisis response revision of the Islamic Republic of Iran interim country strategic plan (2018–2020) and corresponding budget increase

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	1 January 2018– 31 December 2020	No change	1 January 2018– 31 December 2020
Beneficiaries	92 100	15 000	107 100
<i>(USD)</i>			
Total cost	19 846 288	4 703 161	24 549 449
Transfer	15 758 836	4 261 114	20 019 949
Implementation	1 085 283	55 000	1 140 283
Adjusted direct support costs	1 790 894	100 000	1 890 894
Subtotal	18 635 012	4 416 114	23 051 126
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	1 211 276	287 047	1 498 323

Gender and age marker code*: 3¹

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

Rationale

1. Iran has been grappling with the COVID-19 outbreak; Iranian officials reported the first confirmed COVID-19 cases on 19 February 2020 in Qom. As of 21 May 2020, according to Iranian health authorities, there have been 7,249 COVID-19 deaths in Iran with a total of around 129,341 infections across all 31 provinces. The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), WFP's counterpart in disaster response and the only non-governmental organization (NGO) mandated by the government to respond to emergencies, has reached out to WFP for assistance. As part of the national response system, the Government of Iran has asked IRCS to screen travelers at entrances of cities as well as at all points of entry into the country. To this end, 5,000 IRCS staff and volunteers require personal protective equipment (PPEs) for a period of 90 days to allow them to conduct the screenings in a safe manner. Considering the available budget, WFP will provide 2,000 IRCS staff and volunteers with PPEs for a period of two months.
2. The COVID-19 outbreak has further worsened the economic situation in addition to being life threatening for those with underlying health conditions. WFP will augment food baskets with an extra ration of lentils (2 kg person/month) to refugees under its current assistance to ensure that the food security is met during the period, when most people are confined to their houses in order to avoid further spread of the virus. WFP through community health workers will hold personal hygiene sessions on correct handwashing and other personal preventive measures for refugee schoolchildren and teachers (when schools resume) and

¹ The gender and age marker should be reviewed in case of new strategic outcome or additional activity.

provide hygiene material (e.g. soap and hand sanitizer) for all refugee beneficiaries residing in settlements as well as Iranian teachers who teach at schools inside settlements (when schools resume) to help combat COVID-19.

3. Apart from COVID-19, earlier in January 2020 torrential rains triggered severe flooding across south-eastern Iran. Given the urgency of the situation, in February 2020, WFP assisted more than 16,000 people, delivering 4,000 food parcels to the affected population in two cities of Iranshahr and Chabahar. As food and funds were not programmed under the emergency activity (activity 3), this has also been included in this revision.
4. School feeding activity has been introduced through budget revision (BR) 4. Following technical meetings with government counterparts and in order to align the project with national school feeding policies, WFP has been requested to include teachers in the school snacks programme.

Changes

Strategic orientation

5. This BR will revise the school feeding component of activity 2 and its outputs to include Iranian teachers. Activity 3 will also be revised to expand and include support to government with preparedness and response activities rather than solely on food assistance, considering the new COVID-19 emergency. Therefore, the activities and outputs are as follows:

[Original] Activity 2: Provide conditional support to refugees, especially women and girls to incentivize and facilitate educational and livelihood activities.

[Revised] Activity 2: Provide conditional support, especially to refugee women and girls, to incentivize and facilitate educational and livelihood activities.

[Original] Output: Schoolchildren at the primary and secondary school levels receive snacks every day they attend school.

[Revised] Output: Schoolchildren and teachers at the primary and secondary school levels receive snacks every day they attend school.

[Original] Activity 3: Provide emergency food assistance through cash-based or in-kind transfers to shock affected populations.

[Revised] Activity 3: Provide support to the Government for emergency preparedness and response, including the provision of emergency food assistance through cash-based or in-kind transfers to crisis-affected populations.

[New] Output: Crisis-affected populations benefit from enhanced capacities of the Government to prepare for and respond to emergencies.

6. Previous BRs:
 - BR1 and BR2 were technical revisions.
 - BR3 (country director approval April 2019) added activity 3 in response to flood emergency. The budget increased from USD 18,021,543 to USD 18,621,543.
 - BR4 (country director approval October 2019) added capacity strengthening as a modality, added beneficiaries under activities 1 and 2, and introduced school feeding in settlement schools for 7,000 boys and girls. The budget increased from USD 18,621,543 to USD 19,846,288.

Strategic outcomes

Targeting approach and beneficiary analysis

7. Through this BR:
 - 500 Iranian teachers will be added under school feeding (activity 2) to align with the National School Feeding Policy. The modality of assistance for existing 4,800 beneficiaries has been changed from cash-based transfer (CBT) to capacity strengthening.
 - Under activity 3, 16,000 Iranians affected by flood will be added. As part of capacity strengthening support, schoolchildren and teachers at primary and secondary schools will participate in hygiene awareness activities when schools resume – 31,000 existing refugee beneficiaries including schools and health centres inside settlements will receive hygiene kits – 5,000 Iranian staff and volunteers from IRCS will receive PPE kits.

Transfer modalities

8. Capacity strengthening will be added as a modality under activity 3 for the provision of non-food items to IRCS and activity 1 for the provision of hygiene kits.
9. Iranian school teachers added under activity 2 will receive school snacks (food modality).

Supply chain challenges

10. Procurement of the food basket, as well as hygiene items for beneficiaries will be done locally. The only foreseen challenge is inflation in prices considering the continuation of sanctions and the consequent economic downturn. WFP will continue to monitor the price and market fluctuations and adapt as needed, particularly to ensure beneficiaries maintain purchasing power.
11. The PPEs will be procured regionally through the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) and airlifted to Tehran. Due to huge global demand for PPEs, price hikes and long lead times for production may be encountered.

Monitoring and evaluation

12. The current monitoring and evaluation (M&E) arrangements will be expanded to cover the newly added emergency initiatives.

Beneficiary analysis

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY							
Strategic outcome	Activity	Period	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
			(18+ years)	(18+ years)	(0-18 years)	(0-18 years)	
1	1	Current	8 680	8 680	6 510	7 130	31 000
		Increase/decrease	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Revised	8 680	8 680	6 510	7 130	31 000
	2	Current	2 550	2 250	6 600	3 700	15 100
		Increase/decrease	(2 400)	(1 900)	n/a	n/a	(4 300)
		Revised	150	350	6 600	3 700	10 800
	3	Current	21 218	20 740	8 464	9 178	59 600
		Increase/Decrease	5 695	5 570	2 271	2 464	16 000
		Revised	26 913	26 310	10 735	11 642	75 600
Total (without overlap)		Current	30 648	30 170	14 974	16 308	92 100
		Increase/decrease	2 767	17 275	(2 443)	(2 599)	15 000
		Revised	33 415	47 445	12 531	13 709	107 100

Note: 10,300 beneficiaries have been deducted from the revised total due to overlaps.

Transfers

TABLE 2: FOOD RATION (<i>g/person/day</i>) or CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUE (<i>USD/person/day</i>) BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY						
	Strategic outcome 1					
	Activity 1		Activity 2			Activity 3
Beneficiary type	Refugee/Men HH*	Refugee/Women HH	Girls education	Livelihood women	School feeding	Crisis-affected persons
Modality	Food and CBT	Food and CBT	CBT	CBT	Food	Food
Cereals	300	300	-	-	-	83.33
Pulses/green lentils	66.66	66.66	-	-	-	22.5
Pulses/pinto bean	-	-	-	-	-	22.5
Oil	-	-	-	-	-	20.25
Salt	-	-	-	-	-	4.16
Sugar/cube sugar	-	-	-	-	-	40
Tuna fish	-	-	-	-	-	18
Canned pinto bean	-	-	-	-	-	26.66
Tea	-	-	-	-	-	4.16
Super Cereal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Super Cereal Plus	-	-	-	-	-	-
Micronutrient powder	-	-	-	-	-	-
DAI UHT milk	-	-	-	-	206	-
MIX biscuits	-	-	-	-	28.636	-
MIX date bars	-	-	-	-	38.864	-
Fruits-dried	-	-	-	-	6.136	-
Total kcal/day	1 312	1 312	-	-	621.19	915
% kcal from protein	186.4	186.4	-	-	38	28
Cash-based transfers (<i>USD/person/day</i>)	0.20	0.25	0.12		-	-
Number of feeding days per year	360	360	270	N/A	198	30

* HH = headed household

Food type/cash-based transfer	Current budget		Increase		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	9 864	3 157 898	0	0	9 864	3 157 898
Pulses	0	0	372	409 200	372	409 200
Oil and fats	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mixed and blended foods	136	217 366	- 11	- 96 926	125	120 440
Other	784	1 118 315	143	150 296	927	1 268 611
Total (food)	10 784	4 493 579	504	462 570	11 288	4 956 149
Cash-based transfers		9 209 960		0		9 209 960
Total (food and CBT value)	10 784	13 703 539	504	462 570	11 288	14 166 109

Cost breakdown

13. The changes in this BR will be covered through a donation from the Government of Japan. Sixty percent of the funding has been allocated to support Iranians via the IRCS through purchasing PPE kits, 35 percent has been allocated to ensure augmented food and cash distribution to the vulnerable refugees and 5 percent for training refugee children on personal hygiene issues and providing all beneficiaries with hygiene items (hand sanitizer and liquid soap).

	Strategic Result 1 / SDG Target 2.1	Total
Strategic outcome	1	
Focus area	Crisis response	
Transfer	4 261 114	4 261 114
Implementation	55 000	55 000
Adjusted direct support costs		100 000
Subtotal		4 416 114
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)		287 047
Total		4 703 161

TABLE 5: OVERALL CSP COST BREAKDOWN, FOLLOWING THE REVISION (USD)

	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Total
Strategic outcome	1	
Focus area	Crisis response	
Transfer	20 019 949	20 019 949
Implementation	1 140 283	1 140 283
Adjusted direct support costs	1 890 894	1 890 894
Subtotal	23 051 126	23 051 126
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	1 498 323	1 498 323
Total	24 549 449	24 549 449

Acronyms

BR	budget revision
CBT	cash-based transfer
IRCS	Iranian Red Crescent Society
PPE	personal protective equipment