

INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN REVISION

REVISION

[Syrian Arab Republic] interim country strategic plan, revision |02|

Gender and age marker code: |4|

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	January 2019–December 2020	No change	January 2019–December 2020
Beneficiaries	6 055 000	1 400 000	7 455 000
Total cost (USD)	1 722 163 487	87 378 256	1 809 541 744
Transfers	1 506 883 414	78 832 369	1 585 715 784
Implementation	65 297 464	3 212 942	68 510 406
Adjusted direct support costs	44 874 039	0	44 874 039
Subtotal	1 617 054 918	82 045 311	1 699 100 229
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	105 108 570	5 332 945	110 441 515

RATIONALE

1. The food security situation in Syria has worsened in recent months. An estimated 7.9 million Syrians were food insecure in September 2019¹. A combination of increased armed hostilities in North West and North East of Syria deepening Syria's protracted crisis, the neighbouring financial crisis in Lebanon which has put further downward pressure on the value of the Syrian pound and the impact of COVID-19 have all contributed to higher humanitarian needs.
2. Prices of basic food items in local markets have reached record highs and increased by 111 percent on average since April 2019. Prices now stand at more than 14 times their pre-crisis averages², meaning that a healthy meal is now beyond the reach of many families. Between March – April 2020, the price of basic food items increased 16 percent on average due to panic buying. Lately, Homs and Hama have seen the greatest price increases, up to 40 percent on average in a single month³.
3. The preventive measures to combat COVID-19 such as lockdown, curfew, closure of business and restriction of movement between governorates have put pressure on food availability and access. Poverty levels are likely to increase, further eroding the purchasing power of Syrian households. Despite levels of acute malnutrition in children being identified as low (1.7 percent) from the 2019 SMART survey, the increased levels of anemia (27.4 percent in children and 30.6 percent in pregnant women) may rise.
4. Population displacement has been recorded in North West Syria since December 2019. The North-East has also witnessed large-scale displacements caused by the Turkish military operation in October 2019, with many vulnerable people still in unofficial settlements and collective shelters. Instability in the South of Syria remains high, along with increased military activities of ISIL sleeper cells in the East.

¹ Food Security Assessment / Food Security and Livelihood Assessment 2019, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2019.

² Pre-crisis five year (2006-2010) monthly average WFP reference food basket price.

³ WFP Syria Price Bulletin – April 2020.

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5. This BR aims to: i) expand the number of targeted beneficiaries under SO1 to respond to the deteriorating food security situation and; ii) make adjustments to the number of beneficiaries in the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme, supporting children under 5.

CHANGES

Strategic orientation

6. There are no changes to the strategic orientation.
7. Previous BRs:
 - BR01 (ED/FAO approval in March 2020) (1) expanded the number of targeted beneficiaries under SO1 (2) made adjustments of beneficiaries in the nutrition programme; (3) added a new activity, UNHAS (SO4) and (4) included adjustments to the food ration, implementation and DSC costs in line with the expansion to the programme.

Strategic outcomes

8. This BR will have no changes to the strategic outcomes.

Targeting approach and beneficiary analysis:

9. Under activity 1, general food assistance (GFA) will scale up from assisting 5 million to 6.4 million beneficiaries on a monthly basis from July to December 2020, to cover the increased needs. Additional beneficiaries will be targeted according to criteria applied through the Beneficiary Selection Tool, which takes into consideration demographic and socio-economic criteria correlated with food insecurity, family size, number of dependants unable to seek employment (children, disabled, and elderly), gender of head of household, household assets and income.
10. There will be a contingency plan to meet the food needs of an additional 500,000 beneficiaries for a period of up to three months in the event of a major shock, such as further displacements resulting from a sudden escalation of violence or spontaneous return movements.
11. Under activity 4, WFP's preventive nutrition programme will extend coverage to target 407,070 children (6-23 months, inclusive) and 232,004 pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW/Gs) by the end of 2020. The increased target is aligned with GFA activity expansion. Geographical prioritization will be informed by the SMART 2019 survey results which revealed an increase in the prevalence of stunting, with PLW/Gs being more vulnerable to acute malnutrition and more than twice as likely to be malnourished as children under five years of age (4.2 percent in PLWGs and opposed to 1.7 percent in children).

Transfer modalities:

12. There are no changes to the transfer modalities. The additional 1.4 million people targeted under GFA and those under the Blanket Supplementary Feeding will fall under in-kind food assistance.
13. Beneficiaries assisted through the cross-border operation, populations living in camps and populations living in highly vulnerable areas will receive an increased ration (under activity 1) covering 100 percent of the kcal needs (i.e. 2,100 kcal). All other beneficiaries under activity 1 will continue to receive the standard ration corresponding to 1,700 kcal, or 80 percent of the daily food requirements.

Supply chain challenges:

14. Adding to the increasing food prices, WFP is facing additional lead-time for food procurement, delays in arrival of food in port entry in Lebanon and some food export restrictions at countries of origin. To mitigate such risks, WFP Syria is expanding its food prepositioned in country

relying on WFP and Cooperating Partners warehouses throughout the country while diversifying the sources of origin.

- The price increase of food commodities has impacted the overall operational cost, as reflected in the updated approved supply chain matrix.

Risk Management:

- The outbreak of COVID-19 has added multiple risks to beneficiaries, residents, and staff, requiring various operational adjustments. WFP has maintained all essential food distribution and nutrition activities with appropriate social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) mitigation measures including: increasing distribution days to reduce crowding, physical distancing marks at distribution points, communication campaigns, personal protective equipment and soap provision. Infant and young child feeding (IYCF) protocols were also drafted by the nutrition sector, endorsed by the Ministry of Health, to provide partners with guidelines on the implementation of nutrition programmes during COVID-19.

Beneficiary analysis

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME, ACTIVITY & MODALITY							
Strategic Outcome	Activity	Period	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
			(18+ years)	(18+ years)	(0-18 years)	(0-18 years)	
SO1	1 General Food Assistance - Food	Current	1,086,500	1,044,000	1,463,500	1,406,000	5,000,000
		Revisited demography ⁴	1,086,300	1,043,700	1,465,000	1,405,000	5,000,000
		Increase/decrease	304,164	292,236	410,200	393,400	1,400,000
		Revised	1,390,464	1,335,936	1,875,200	1,798,400	6,400,000
	1 General Food Assistance - CBT	Current	130,380	125,280	175,620	168,720	600,000
		Revisited demography	130,356	125,244	175,800	168,600	600,000
	1 General Food Assistance - TOTAL	Current	1,086,500	1,044,000	1,463,500	1,406,000	5,000,000
		Revisited demography	1,086,300	1,043,700	1,465,000	1,405,000	5,000,000
		Increase/decrease	304,164	292,236	410,200	393,400	1,400,000
		Revised	1,390,464	1,335,936	1,875,200	1,798,400	6,400,000
	2 School Meals Programme - Food	Current	0	0	563,500	586,500	1,150,000
	2 School Meals Programme - Food - CBT	Current	0	0	73,500	76,500	150,000

⁴ The demography is revised to align with the original COMET demographics which were not used in the BR01.

	2 School Meals Programme – TOTAL	Current	0	0	612,500	637,500	1,250,000
SO2	3 Livelihood and Resilience - Food	Current	173,840	167,040	234,160	224,960	800,000
		Revisited demography	173,808	166,992	234,400	224,800	800,000
	3 Livelihood and Resilience - CBT	Current	239,030	229,680	321,970	309,320	1,100,000
		Revisited demography	238,986	229,614	322,300	309,100	1,100,000
	3 Livelihood and Resilience - TOTAL	Current	412,870	396,720	556,130	534,280	1,900,000
		Revisited demography	412,794	396,606	556,700	533,900	1,900,000
SO4	4. Nutrition prevention – food	Current	0	0	184,518	177,282	361,800
		Increase/decrease	0	0	23,088	22,182	45,270
		Revised total	0	0	207,606	199,464	407,070
	4 Nutrition Prevention - CBT	Current	232,004	0	0	0	232,004
		Revisited demography	220,404	0	11,600	0	232,004
	4 Nutrition Prevention - TOTAL	Current	232,004		184,518	177,282	593,804
		Revisited demography	220,404	0	196,118	177,282	593,804
		Increase/decrease	0	0	23,088	22,182	45,270
		Revised total	220,404		219,206	199,464	639,074
	5 Nutrition Treatment - TOTAL	Current	45,000	0	23,400	21,600	90,000
		Revisited demography	42,750	0	25,650	21,600	90,000
	TOTAL (without overlap)	Current	1,274,148	1202688	1,820,152	1,758,012	6,055,000
Revisited demography		1,142,242	961,987	2,000,590	1,950,181	6,055,000	
Increase/decrease		356,444	294,556	384,975	364,025	1,400,000	
Revised		1,498,686	1,256,543	2,385,565	2,314,206	7,455,000	

Transfers

TABLE 2: FOOD RATIONS (g/person/day) OR CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUES (USD/person/day) BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY									
	Strategic outcome 1				Strategic outcome 2		Strategic outcome 3		
	Activity 1		Activity 2		Activity 3		Activity 4	Activity 5	
Beneficiary type	Vulnerable Syrians (inside the Syrian Arab Republic)	Vulnerable Syrians (cross-border)	Pre-primary and primary schoolchildren	Out of school children	Vulnerable Syrians (inside the Syrian Arab Republic)	Vulnerable Syrians (cross-border)	Children age 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls	Children age 6–59 months	Pregnant and lactating women and girls
Modality	Food/CBTs	Food	Food/CBTs	CBTs	Food/CBTs	Food	Food/CBTs	Food	Food
Cereals	233	300	62.5		233	273			
Pulses	120	120			120	153			
Oil	36	49			36	49			
Salt	7	7			7	7			
Sugar	33	40			33	40			
Fortified date bars			80						
Yeast			0.375						
Lipid-based nutrient supplement – LNS–MQ							50		
Lipid-based nutrient supplement – LNS–LQ								100	100
Total kcal/day	1 700	2 055	344		1 700	2 055	255	510	510
% kcal from protein	12.4	11	5.6		12.4	11	10	10	10
Cash-based transfers (USD/person/day)	0.4		0.4	0.83	0.4		1		
Number of feeding days per year	360	360	220	300	180	180	360	90	120

Food type/ cash-based transfer	Current budget		Increase/decrease		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	425 035	197 463 059	52 939	24 921 008	477 974	222 384 068
Pulses	238 458	149 373 815	30 903	20 877 835	269 361	170 251 650
Oil and Fats	72 485	92 780 803	9 414	12 050 077	81 899	104 830 880
Mixed and blended	70 745	138 024 700	407	1 029 824	71 152	139 054 525
Other	466 611	271 562 948	10 213	3 697 321	476 823	275 260 269
Total (food)	1 273 333	849 205 326	103 876	62 576 066	1 377 209	911 781 392
Cash-based transfers		333 271 440		0		333 271 440
Total (food and cash-based transfer value)	1 273 333	1 182 476 766	103 876	62 576 066	1 377 209	1 245 052 832

COST BREAKDOWN

17. This revision will increase the ICSP budget by USD 87 million; the costs are calculated based on previously established and approved rates.

	Strategic Result 1	Strategic Result 1	Strategic Result 2	Strategic Result 8	Total
	SDG target 2.1	SDG target 2.1	SDG target 2.2	SDG target 17.16	
Strategic outcome	1	2	3	4	
Focus area	Crisis response	Resilience building	Resilience building	Crisis response	
Transfer	77 667 069	0	1 165 300	-	78 832 369
Implementation	3 182 000	0	30 942	-	3 212 942
Adjusted direct support costs					-
Subtotal					82 045 311
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)					5 332 945
Total					87 378 256

TABLE 5: OVERALL ICSP COST BREAKDOWN, AFTER REVISION (USD)					
	Strategic result 1	Strategic result 1	Strategic result 2	Strategic result 8	Total
	SDG target 2.1	SDG target 2.1	SDG target 2.2	SDG target 17.16	
Strategic outcome	1	2	3	4	
Focus area	Crisis response	Resilience building	Resilience building	Crisis response	
Transfers	1 225 011 973	223 957 157	117 719 307	19 027 348	1 585 715 784
Implementation	53 141 446	9 674 452	5 694 509	0	68 510 406
Adjusted direct support costs	34 653 300	6 369 218	3 335 195	516 325	44 874 039
Subtotal	1 312 806 718	240 000 827	126 749 011	19 543 673	1 699 100 229
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	85 332 437	15 600 054	8 238 686	1 270 339	110 441 515
Total	1 398 139 155	255 600 880	134 987 697	20 814 012	1 809 541 744

Annex 1: Revised Line of Sight

SYRIA ICSP (January 2019 – December 2020)

SR 1 – Access to food (SDG Target 2.1)	SR 2 – End malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2)	SR 8- Enhance Global Partnership (SDG Target 17.16)	
CRISIS RESPONSE	RESILIENCE BUILDING	RESILIENCE BUILDING	CRISIS RESPONSE
OUTCOME 1: Food-insecure populations affected by the crisis, including host communities, internally displaced persons and returnees, in all governorates, have access to life-saving food to meet their basic food needs all year round.	OUTCOME 2: Food-insecure families in urban and rural areas affected by the crisis are enabled to meet their basic food and nutrition needs and increase their self-reliance throughout the year.	OUTCOME 3: Nutritionally vulnerable groups, especially children and pregnant and lactating women and girls, across the Syrian Arab Republic have reduced levels of malnutrition throughout the year.	OUTCOME 4: Humanitarian partners across the Syrian Arab Republic benefit from augmented logistics and emergency telecommunications capacity and services, enabling them to provide humanitarian assistance throughout the crisis.
BUDGET SO 1: \$ 1,398,139,155	BUDGET SO 2: \$ 255,600,880	BUDGET SO 3: \$ 134,987,697	BUDGET SO 4: \$ 20,814,012
OUTPUTS:	OUTPUTS:	OUTPUTS:	OUTPUTS:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Targeted food-insecure populations receive adequate food assistance to meet their basic food needs. <i>(Tier 1, output A, linked to activity 1)</i> 2. Food-insecure populations benefit from enhanced capacities of cooperating partners in areas such as protection and beneficiary registration to protect access to food. <i>(Tier 3, output C, linked to activity 1)</i> 3. Food-insecure populations benefit from enhanced coordination through WFP's leadership of the food security sector and improved harmonization of monitoring and data collection within the sector, to protect access to food. <i>(Tier 3, output C, linked to activity 1)</i> 4. Targeted students receive nutritious school meals and/or CBTs to meet food needs while increasing enrolment and attendance, and promoting stability. <i>(Tier 1, outputs A and B, SDG 4, linked to activity 2)</i> 5. Food-insecure populations benefit from local producers' increased capacity to produce nutritious food products. <i>(Tier 3, output C, linked to activity 2)</i> 6. Vulnerable groups benefit from strengthened capacity of the national logistics sector in freight transport and supply chain management. <i>(Tier 3, output C, linked to activity 1)</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food-insecure households improve and maintain livelihood assets for targeted communities and households to protect their access to food. <i>(Tier 1, outputs A and D)</i> 2. Targeted farmers, including women, receive training and/or technical support to increase their knowledge and skills, enabling them to enhance production and sales. <i>(Tier 1, outputs A and C)</i> 3. Targeted food-insecure Syrian IDPs, returnees and residents build marketable skills to strengthen their livelihoods. <i>(Tier 1, outputs A and C)</i> 4. Food-insecure households benefit from creation of community assets in environment and agriculture sectors to protect their access to food. <i>(Tier 2, output category D)</i> 5. Targeted vulnerable Syrian IDPs, returnees and residents increase their financial literacy and business management skills, while enhancing their access to financial services to strengthen their livelihoods. <i>(Tier 1, output A, C and G)</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Targeted children aged 6-23 months receive specialized nutritious foods to prevent acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. <i>(Tier 1, output A and B, linked to activity 4)</i> 2. Children aged 6-59 months, and pregnant and lactating women and girls are treated for moderate acute malnutrition. <i>(Tier 1, output category A and B, linked to activity 5)</i> 3. Pregnant and lactating women and girls receive CBTs to improve their dietary diversity and nutrient intake. <i>(Tier 1, output A, linked to activity 4)</i> 4. Social and behaviour change communication is provided to beneficiaries and caregivers to improve dietary diversity, nutrient intake and young child feeding practices. <i>(Tier 2, output E, linked to activity 4 and 5)</i> 5. Nutritionally vulnerable groups will benefit from strengthened capacity of national stakeholders to develop universal salt iodization and wheat flour fortification. <i>(Tier 3, output C, linked to activity 4)</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crisis-affected populations benefit from humanitarian partners being provided with coordination and services that cover logistics gaps, enabling the implementation of activities. <i>(Tier 3, output C, H and K, linked to activity 6)</i> 2. Crisis-affected populations benefit from humanitarian organizations being provided with shared information and communications technology (ICT) services and coordination support in common operational areas. <i>(Tier 3, output C, H and K, linked to activity 7)</i> 3. Crisis-affected populations benefit from humanitarian partners being provided with technical assistance and support services. <i>(Tier 3, output H, linked to activity 8)</i> 4. Crisis-affected populations benefit from the availability of humanitarian air services for the safe transportation of humanitarian staff and the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance. <i>(Tier 3, output category H, linked to activity 9)</i>
<p>ACTIVITY 1: Provision of general food assistance in the form of regular in-kind or CBT monthly food assistance with ready-to-eat rations in the initial phase of displacement. <i>(CAT 1; modality: food, CBT, CS)</i></p>	<p>ACTIVITY 3: Provision of livelihood support through household- and communal-level asset creation through food assistance for assets (FFA) activities and enhanced human capital through food assistance for training (FFT). <i>(CAT 2; modality: food, CBT, CS)</i></p>	<p>ACTIVITY 4: Prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies in children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls. <i>(CAT 6; modality: food, CBT, CS)</i></p>	<p>ACTIVITY 6: Provide "Whole-of-Syria" coordination, information management, capacity development and shared logistics services to sector partners that face logistics gaps. <i>(CAT 10; modality: SD)</i></p>
<p>ACTIVITY 2: Provision of school meals for pre- and primary schoolchildren in regular schools and CBTs to out-of-school children enrolled in informal education or alternate learning opportunities. <i>(CAT 4; modality: food, CBT, CS)</i></p>	<p>ACTIVITY 5: Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls. <i>(CAT 5; modality: food, CS)</i></p>	<p>ACTIVITY 7: Provide shared ICT services, emergency telecommunications coordination and information technology (IT) emergency preparedness training to humanitarian organizations in common operational areas. <i>(CAT 10; modality: SD)</i></p>	<p>ACTIVITY 8: Provide technical assistance and support services to humanitarian partners <i>(CAT 10; modality: SD)</i></p>
			<p>ACTIVITY 9: Provide air services for personnel and light cargo (United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) <i>(CAT 10; modality: SD)</i></p>
DRAFT			
TOTAL BUDGET: \$ 1,809,541,744			